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JOHN BULL

Vol. XII. No. 307 | SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 1912. | ONE PENNY

[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.

For meaning of this No. see Page ii. of cover.

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

FOOTBALL VOUCHER
APRIL 20, 1912.
See page iii. of cover.

THE CAT
ON THE COVER

of "Mrs. Bull" is typical of the "homeliness" of the paper. Indeed "a home journal in every sense," aptly describes "Mrs. Bull." Between its covers is to be found precisely what is needed by the wife and daughter to pass a pleasant hour, and a host of Hints and Helps, which mean to the "Handy-woman" saving of time and economy in dress and living. Why not give your womenfolk the pleasure of having "Mrs. Bull" weekly? Begin to-day. Buy this week's issue Now on sale, everywhere 1d.

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Milton Mansions, Queen's Club Gardens.
Drayton Road, Harlesden.
Dunsford Road, Wimbledon Park.
The Avenue, Chingford.
Maud Street, Rhyl,
and Elsewhere.

THE DINING ROOMS, ETC.,

comprise the following: Set of 6 small chairs and 2 arm chairs, Georgian period, 14 guineas; Georgian Sideboard to match, 11 guineas; dining table to match, extending, £7 10s.; Bookcase to match, 6 guineas; very massive oak Sideboard, £5 10s.; Overmantel to match, £2 5s.; Extending dining table, £2 10s.; 6 small chairs and 2 arm chairs in carved oak, 40 guineas; Sideboard, very finely carved, in oak, to match, 12 guineas; 3 Chesterfield Settees, £3 10s. each; 6 very fine Lounge Club Divan easy chairs, 27s. 6d. each; Carved Oak Dining Table, 4 guineas; Carved Oak Overmantel, £2 10s.; Saddlebag suite, £4 15s.; another dining-room suite, £3 15s.; Massive carved oak Sideboard, with oxydised copper fittings, bevelled plate glass, 6 small chairs and 2 arm chairs to match, extending dining table, heavy curb suite, £15 10s. the lot; similar set in fumigated oak, £13 10s.; 10 real Turkey carpets, about 9 by 12, at 7 guineas each; 4 Turkey carpets, about 9 ft. 6 ins. by 12 ft. 6 ins., £8 10s. each; 20 Turkey rugs, from 25s.; numerous carpets in Tapestry, Axminster and Velvet Pile, all sizes, in thoroughly good condition, to be sold without any reserve; a most elegant Grand Piano, 18 guineas; an upright Grand Piano, 12 guineas; another by Adolph Achumann, 18 guineas; another, by Carl Strauss, 22 guineas; several Grand Pianos by Broadwood, Emil Pauer, Collard and Collard, Bluthner, and Bechstein; 3 Hall Stands, 18s. 6d. each; hall chairs, from 7s. 6d.; and all necessary effects for completely furnishing Dining Rooms, Smoke Rooms, Libraries, Studies, etc., etc.

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THE DRAWING ROOMS

include a very fine Chesterfield suite, upholstered in silk, most elaborate, £25; another Chesterfield suite in silk tapestry, £12 15s.; Satinwood finish Drawing Room suite, £8 15s.; large size 6 ft. Chesterfield and 2 easy chairs to match, £15 15s.; a Satinwood finish Cabinet, 8 guineas; Vernis Marten Cabinet, 14 guineas; Buhl Cabinet, £12 10s.; very pretty Boudoir Suite, 4 guineas; another, 6 guineas; 6 Chesterfields with adjustable ends, covered in art tapestry, £3 10s. each; 10 easy chairs, 25s. each; 25 Occasional Chairs, 6s. 6d. each; Occasional tables, from 20s. each; Satinwood decorated centre table, £2 5s.; Satinwood decorated China Cabinet, 13 guineas; Satinwood decorated Overmantel, £3 5s.; Gilt Drawing Room suite, 14 guineas; an all brass Fender Suite, 4 guineas; 6 Gilt chairs, 15s. each; 3 Gilt Berger chairs, covered in silk, 10 guineas each; Baby Grand Piano, 40 guineas; pair 9 light Candelabra, 7 guineas; 3 gilt suites covered in French silk, £8 10s. each; Curio Table, 30s.; 6 White enamelled Overmantels, 18s. 6d. each; 4 Axminster carpets, with borders, about 11ft. by 14 ft., £7 10s. each; several other Axminster and Velvet Pile carpets; large quantity of Sheffield plate and silver; also table linen, bed linen, draperies, etc., etc.

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The following claims have been received for our issues of January 27th and March 6th, 1912:—

GEORGE POWER, 256, Victoria Park Road, South Hackney. No. 535887. January 27th.

A. B. POWELL, 111, King Street, Plymouth. No. 454952. March 6th.

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of March 23rd:—

2864	191886	359388	545947	709744
20016	192795	387678	561797	730500
35449	222683	397688	590089	744874
53807	223303	419189	593529	752283
87080	246364	432067	623049	764022
97073	254719	443983	639428	765722
106951	264513	479124	675486	770506
131538	269716	493581	685468	789889
173792	329945	500341	692083	795526
183156	340991	530796	694543	805161

The Fifty Numbers in Respect of this Week will be Announced in our Issue dated May 18th (Published May 16th, 1912).

The John Bull League.

OBJECTS: To Stamp out Cant and Self-Righteousness; to abolish Cranks and Killjoys; to Create a Robust and Self-reliant Public Opinion; and to Promote a Common Sense Business Government for a Common Sense Business People.

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Vol. XII. No. 307. Week ending Saturday, April 20th, 1912. One Penny.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Letters must be addressed to the Editor or the Publisher, at 93, Long Acre, London, W.C., according to whether they relate to Editorial or Business matters.
All editorial inquiries MUST BE MADE BY LETTER.

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MR. BOTTOMLEY

AT THE

QUEEN'S HALL,

LANGHAM PLACE, LONDON, W.,

ON

SATURDAY, MAY 11th, at 8 p.m.

(Doors open 7 p.m.),

when he will announce his Political intentions and the course he proposes to adopt in view of recent events; and will also deal with the pressing political questions of the day.

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Further particulars next week.

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

OUR MEETING.

This will be at the Queen's Hall, Langham Place, on Saturday, May 11th, at 8 o'clock—not at the Albert Hall, on May 10th, as previously announced—and as there is accommodation for only about five thousand, tickets should be secured early. We do not as a rule make any charge for admission, but we cannot very well ask the Official Receiver to pay the expenses!

A GENEROUS HOUSE.

Whatever be its faults, the House of Commons is at heart the most generous assembly in the world. We were particularly impressed with this fact by the cordiality of our own reception there last week, after an absence of several months.

PRIVILEGE OF COUNSEL.

The Bill we are introducing to limit and define the privilege of advocates is arousing a good deal of attention. One reader informs us that such an Act was passed some years ago in Victoria, as the direct result of the bullying and unscrupulous methods of a certain barrister. History has a knack of repeating itself.

THE LABOUR "PARTY" AND THE STRIKE.

Now that the coal strike is, for the moment, over, Labour M.P.s are patting themselves on the back and saying alone they did it. Of course, the simple fact is that they voted against the Minimum Wage Bill—which the miners have accepted. As the Bishop of Worcester says, "those who have hitherto been supposed to represent labour in Parliament, have ceased to lead it They have waited on the events which have developed." Of course that is the Bishop's discovery Some of us have been aware of the fact for the past five years.

CAUSE AND EFFECT.

Was it intentional irony on the part of a Unionist paper which last week published a special contents bill—"The Home Rule Bill—Reported Death of the Pope"?

GETTING ON!

By the time these lines are read, the Government will have set up an "Estimates Committee"—which we were the first to suggest and impress upon it. At the moment, we can only express the hope that its constitution may be an improvement upon that of the Royal Commission recently appointed to deal with the question of our Empire trade.

PROMISING BOYS—

Two of the most promising boys in the House of Commons at the present time are Mr. Page Croft and Mr. Alan Burgoyne. They are always listened to with attention, the former being an enthusiast on Imperial questions, and the latter a veritable human encyclopædia of Naval knowledge. We take a special interest in their political advancement, in view of the fact that each of them is an advocate of Business Government

AND ONE OF THE OLD SCHOOL.

On the other hand, we have Sir Henry Kimber declining to stand again for his safe Wandsworth seat "as a solemn protest against the viciousness of the Party System," which, in his view, has prevented co-operation between the various sections in the House for the purpose of dealing with his pet problem of Re-distribution. Altogether, the Party system is having a bad time of it just now.

A STRANGE ADMISSION.

Party politicians frequently lose their heads, but surely Mr. E. Hewlett, J.P., who presided at a recent dinner of the Ammanford Conservative Association, was a bit off his guard when, in referring to the Party's new leader, he said that he was a man who would call "a spade a shovel" and that "it now looked as if they were going to leave the old tameness behind and become as venomous and vindictive as possible." We observe, however, that this pronouncement was greeted with loud applause.

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—*See page 513.*

Bravo, Bishop!

The Bishop of Worcester is one of the few clerics who discern the signs of the times. Preaching at his cathedral the other day, he told his congregation some of the things which, in our own blunt way, *we* have been preaching for the past few years. "We shall still have in the land," said he, "Tories, Radicals, Socialists and Syndicalists. But if this nation is to right itself and recover its balance, it will do so on a line which cuts right through the shibboleths which have held us." The Bishop also pointed out how Parliament has become impotent as a representative institution, and how the Labour "leaders" apparently lead no one; and then, remembering how the words we have quoted might be applied equally to the Church, he proceeded to explain that its religion "may have to present itself in new ways as a system. Its forms of service, its ceremonial, may reshape themselves." Yes, but *that* will not be the solution—though it will help.

Legalised Blackmail.

We are glad to see that Mr. Houston, M.P., also has his eye on the existing state of the law, which at present allows anyone who is dissatisfied with a bargain to endeavour to undo it by alleging fraud. Actions of this kind are becoming far too frequent. They are often mere speculations on the part of shady attorneys, who, by means of this method of legalised blackmail, make a dead set at men in public positions, who frequently submit to payment rather than face the shower of mud which they know will be squirted over them in the witness box. In most of the cases the juries are quite incapable of understanding the transactions, whilst they are generally swayed by a strong bias against any sort of speculative transaction, and give their sympathy to the man who has lost money. The hoary proverb about there being no smoke without fire always appeals to laymen, to whose mind the word "fraud" has a terrible significance, suggestive of the Police Court or the Old Bailey—whereas, in fact, it has become a commonplace of modern pleading.

"Geography."

The following is one of the questions set for an examination in geography at Christmas last, for teachers in elementary schools:—

> Account for the facts underlying the following statements taken from the story of Henwen, the Beneficent Pig, in the Triads:—
>
> "Since which time the best wheat and the best honey have been in Gwent."
>
> "And Dyfed has produced the best pigs and barley from that time to this."
>
> "And thenceforth the best rye has been found at Lleyn and at Eivonydd."
>
> "In Arvon she dropped a wolf-cub and an eagle chick; Col gave the wolf to Menwaed of Dinas Affaraon and the eagle to Brynach, lord of Arllechwedd, and one often hears of the wolf and the eagle."

It sounds more like a test for the lunatic asylum.

The Rev. L. N. de Burgh.

In a letter to the parishioners of Holy Trinity, Weymouth, the Rev. L. B. Weldon mentions that a resolution of sympathy with the Rev. L. N. de Burgh has been recently passed by the leading residents. It will be remembered that Lieutenant à Beckett commenced an action against Mr. de Burgh for libelling him in a postcard sent to his Commanding Officer, and that though the defendant denied writing it, the jury, by their verdict, said they believed he was lying. "Any light that can possibly be thrown on this most distressing affair," says Mr. Weldon, "will be welcomed by all friends of Mr. de Burgh and Holy Trinity Parish." Candidly, we do not think they need go far for it.

An Awkward Position.

Meanwhile, an extremely awkward position has arisen. The Rev. L. N. de Burgh is holding services in Holy Trinity Church, Weymouth, as usual, despite the fact that the lieutenant whom he maligned has to be present in the church with his troops. Surely it should be possible for Mr. de Burgh to obtain a transfer to some other parish, and thus relieve an intolerable strain. Each party must feel "hatred and uncharitableness" when gazing upon the other.

Trade and Prayer.

Apropos of the question we are addressing to the Prime Minister, as to whether he will relieve the Speaker of the new Irish House of Commons from membership of the Board of Trade, we venture to suggest that the time has come when His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury should be freed from that position also. An object lesson in the value of his services was afforded by his intervention in the recent coal strike discussion—when the best suggestion he could make was, that we should all join in prayer for deliverance from the crisis. We do not desire to say an irreverent word respecting the suggestion, but judged purely from the point of view of Business, it was not particularly helpful.

The Late Admiral Field.

We shall have no more differences with Admiral Field, of the Gosport bench. For long years before his recent death, at the age of 83, both as a Parliamentary candidate and as a magistrate, the Admiral was noted for what is known as a "breezy style," and a quarter deck manner. Some of his speeches in Parliament and on public platforms are models of eccentricity in the heat of debate, and he will be long remembered by all who knew him. He has built himself (slightly to alter the Horatian tag) a monument more lasting than grass.

L.C.C. Foolery.

Apparently for no other reason than that time has been hanging on their hands, the legal officials of the London County Council have recently summoned Henry Allen, of Hackney, for employing three male servants without a licence. Allen had a contract with the L.C.C. to carry defective children to school, and the three "male servants" were the coachmen employed for the ambulances. The magistrate characterised the absurdity of the proceedings by saying the L.C.C. might as well summon policemen for not taking out a licence to convey prisoners to gaol in the "Black Maria"; or, he might have added, summon undertakers for employing men to take people to the cemetery.

London University Students.

Wherever the University of London finds its new home, we trust that the Senate will do nothing to jeopardise the opportunities at present available to young working men and women for securing its coveted degrees. Only people exceptionally favoured can "live in." The reputation of the University has been made by the high standard of the examinations, which have been open to whoever thirsteth after knowledge and shuns delights and lives laborious nights in order to obtain it. A London degree has always been an object of ambition to studious youth, who otherwise would not have the remotest chance of a University hall-mark at all. Not, indeed, that either the degree or the "study" leading up to it is worth a tinker's cuss in the practical affairs of life.

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—*See page 513.*

Lake and Powell.

A man named Shaw has committed suicide at Wakefield in circumstances which demand the strictest inquiry on the part of the Incorporated Law Society. "I am broken down with grief and despair," wrote the poor fellow to his son and daughter. "For weeks we have been in poverty, and have no means to procure food. . . ." He was concerned in a question of title to some property, and his letter goes on to state that week after week and month after month he was "put off with one excuse after another," till finally his solicitor told him that the property had been signed over to certain other people—one of them being the lawyer's clerk. Shaw wrote to the Lord Chancellor, who referred him to the Incorporated Law Society, who sent him a book entitled "Mode of Procedure," which, after he had filled it up, was returned "as not being in form." There apparently the matter was left at the date of the man's death, which the coroner's jury decided had been "brought about by the improper treatment received at the hands of the solicitor and his clerk," whose conduct they considered "highly censurable." All this, of course, is *ex parte*, but the matter cannot be left where it is.

The High Hand at York.

All things considered, it is perhaps as well that Alderman Agar, Chairman of the York Licensing Sessions, acted on the advice of the old judge who told a young colleague never to give a reason for his judgment. "Your decision may be right or wrong," he said, "but your reasons are sure to be wrong." Speaking for the majority of the Bench the other day, Alderman Agar refused to confirm the licence to Mr. Charles Kirk, a local brewer, to sell stout in less quantities than a dozen bottles. The amazing thing is that the Bench had already granted a similar licence to every other brewery and stores in the city. We gather that two members of the Bench openly protested, and on the face of it the decision looks both arbitrary and unjust.

Doubtful.

One hears a very great deal about "the benefit of the doubt" in English law, but as a matter of fact defendants do not always get it. This appears to be the case with a laundry proprietor named Nixon, recently charged with poaching at Keresley, a village about two miles out of Coventry. Two persons in a cart hearing a gun fired at a distance of 140 yards or so, one of them went in the direction of the sound, and alleged he recognised Nixon, with a gun in his hand, from a distance of 20 or 30 yards; the other did not leave the cart, but "thought" the man was Nixon. Nixon in his evidence said he was at work at the time, and though two other witnesses corroborated him, he was convicted and fined half-a-crown and costs. There ought to be an appeal, but the smallness of the fine precludes it. That is where the magistrate comes in.

The Reformer.

Not since the days of Fabre d'Eglantine has there been such a reformer as Mr. Robert Harcourt, M.P. The poetic Fabre reformed the French calendar; Mr. Harcourt wants to reform the British one, although if only the weather would harmonise with it, probably nobody except our hon. friend would have a word to say against it. Romme started creation all over again, calling 22nd September, 1792, Vendemiaire 1st of the year 1, and Mr. Harcourt's proposal is to make the business year consist of four quarters of 91 days each, calling 1st January New Year Day, and 1st July in every leap year Leap Day. Why not make room for Rent Day, Income Tax Day, Rate Day, Lloyd George Day, and the other red-letter days in our island's story?

Paddington Rent Inquisition.

Though they have taken an unconscionable long time about it, the Paddington Town Council have at last rescinded the regulation by which they were enabled to make an inquisitional examination of their employés' rent-books. When we say employés' rent-books, we do not mean those of superior officials like the Mayor, the Town Clerk, the Borough Engineer, the Surveyor, or the Medical Officer. Oh dear no! As we recently said, these gentlemen would resent such an indefensible impertinence. The men who had to produce their books were workmen on a weekly wage, the Council practically making themselves the guardians of the interests of the landlords. It is astonishing that the Council should have enforced so objectionable and preposterous a power. Why the rent-book especially? However, the inquisition is ended; and though there was a danger that the Council would also want to see the milk-book, the bread-book, the green-grocery-book, and the beer-book, the workmen may now breathe freely. And the landlords must look after themselves.

Pity the Pit Ponies.

It is an ill wind which blows nobody any good. The strike has certainly done good to the coal merchants and the pit ponies. After weeks of pastures new, the ponies have gone down to the darksome pits again—to work and suffer, and, perhaps, to die. Every day when his work is done the miner comes up to the open to learn that there are such things as free air and green fields, but the pit pony will stay down in the darkness until there is another strike, or an explosion or until he is brought up dead. He, at any rate, is sorry the strike is over.

Quick March.

Business was very brisk at the church of St. Luke's, Canning Town, on Easter Monday, the parsons marrying as many as thirty-two people in ninety minutes—under six minutes a pair. We do not know whether any of them will want a divorce as quickly—we hope not; but if they do they will have to wait a great deal longer. Our rev. friends must be the winners of the matrimonial Marathon, surely!

Pioneering.

Here's a funny competition. A Mr. F. J. Cross having publicly announced his magnificent success in living on threepence a day for a week, a Mr. J. A. Pasfield has published his superb triumph in emulation. "On Sunday," says he, with a burst of noble Spartan pride, "I completed 168 hours without one grain of solid food. My fare for the week was home-made lemonade hot at bed-time, on rising, and at mid-day, with a glass of stout during the evening." No doubt this marvellous feat will be claimed alike as a colossal exculpation by the aquapuritans and as an unchallengeable vindication by the alcoholarians. Either or both of them may have it.

Gardez la Monnaie.

The money-changers are still in the Temple, we notice. It was pointed out at the Easter vestry of St. Leonards, in Sussex, that not only had members of the congregation been seen taking change from the offertory plate, but that on one occasion a lady retained the plate for the purpose a longer time than usual, with the result that it was returned a shilling short. "Keep your eyes open and get your *quid pro quo*," advised the rector. At any rate (if the good vicar *will* have the vernacular), let the churchwardens keep their eyes on people who put in a brown and want to take out change for a bob. We say nothing about the quids.

**"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—*See page 513.*

Filching the Footpaths.

Little by little, one after another, the footpaths and public hedge-strips are being filched away from us. A case in point is in Wiltshire, where a public footway through a certain field should have a width of four feet under the Enclosure Award. "What has happened and is happening everywhere," says Mr. Tindall Wildridge, "is that the modern representative of the allottee considers the path a nuisance, and gets every inch of it he can." The grass or the crops are allowed to grow over it, so that unless someone has the courage to mow his way, scythe in hand, and make for himself a four-foot path, the time will come when it will be obliterated altogether, and people will cease to trouble about its being there. For one case discovered dozens, perhaps hundreds, are never heard of, even with the Rural District Councils looking on. If it is a crime to steal a rabbit or a piece of coal, should not it also be a crime to steal public land? "And the Levites shall speak and say, cursed be he that removeth his neighbour's landmark," cried the Lawgiver, "and all the people shall say 'Amen.'" But the people say nothing of the kind. Most of them are dumb.

Doctor's Pass to Marriage.

A little while before the Millennium arrives the Government of the day will probably have passed an Act enforcing on every person desiring to be happy, though married, compulsory medical examination, first as a condition of the engagement and then again as a condition of the marriage. Chicago is always well ahead in these matters. At the St. Peter and St. Paul Cathedral there a marriage of the kind has been solemnised, "J. G. Craig, Physician and Surgeon," certifying that "Ruth Palmer and A. W. Bode were neither mentally nor physically deficient and were without incurable or communicable disease." This is choosing brides and bridegrooms on much the same principle as one chooses a gee-gee. That the method is not very delicate may be admitted; but, after all, life is so full of ingenious sophistications that people really ought to make sure of the genuineness and quality of the partners they are taking home.

Eugenics and Marriage.

Meantime eugenists will notice with satisfaction that Dr. Forbes Godfrey has introduced into the Ontario Legislature a Bill prohibiting marriage between imbeciles and drunkards. The question is one of extreme difficulty, for it is not merely marriage which is in question. What is really essential is the prevention of physical mating between these degenerates—and that is practically impossible till we get the Business Government!

Grants to Guy's.

Lord Rosebery complains that the Council of King Edward's Hospital Fund utterly ignore the Royal National Hospital for Consumption at Ventnor. The hon. secretaries apparently think they put up an unanswerable case when they say in effect that the hospital does not receive a grant because it is not in need of one. But is Guy's? It is enormously wealthy, and during its last three financial years it has been able to show a surplus of over £9,000 a year. All this notwithstanding, the Council of King Edward's Fund made grants to it of £9,000 in 1909 and £6,000 in 1910 without turning a hair. Will the secretaries now inform us why the Council exclude the Royal National?

Our Meeting.

This will be at the Queen's Hall, Langham Place, on Saturday, May 11th. See page 1.

"W. J. Boys, Vicar."

This is a copy of a notice recently posted in Fordingbridge, Hants: "My Dear Parishioners,—I am deeply grieved to see a notice in the town of a football match on Good Friday. We have never had, for 33 years, such a profanation of the day of the Lord's death.—W. J. Boys, vicar." What, has nobody played a tune on the piano, snored in an armchair, gone out riding a bicycle, or romped with the children on the lawn? Boys will be boys, whether the Rev. Boys likes it, or not.

Workhouse as Prison.

When a man is in the casual ward of a workhouse, is it against the regulations of the Local Government Board to allow him to do his task work on Good Friday if he wants to get out for good Saturday, or merely against the regulations of the Kidderminster Guardians? The reason of our inquiry is that a tramp on his way to Wolverhampton turned into Kidderminster casual ward on Thursday night. On Friday he wished to do his task so as to get out and arrive in Wolverhampton on Saturday. He was told he was not permitted to work on Good Friday, and would be kept in until Saturday and liberated on Monday. From Saturday to Monday, therefore, he was detained.

First-class Salvation.

What is this we hear about the Bishop of London? Let one of our readers who has just returned from Egypt tell the story:—

> I have a little bit of news about the Bishop of London which might interest you. Firstly, we Britishers who travel by either German or French steamers do so because second class on them is so much more comfortable and food better than on a British steamer. But first class is equally good on either. The Bishop came by the N.D.L. steamer *PrinceRegent Lulipeld*, which left Alexandria on March 27th. We all expected the Bishop would hold service on Sunday, the 31st, and as usual expected second and third class passengers would be invited. However, no such thing happened. Service was held, but for first class passengers *only*. Maybe they needed it more.

Dr. Ingram is evidently a first-class Bishop.

Coroners' Inquests.

We must introduce a Bill to limit the scope of the verdicts of coroners' juries. In the old days, when coroners' inquests were first established, there may have been some justification for fixing guilt in cases of murder and manslaughter; but with the growth of our present legal system, no coroner's jury should be permitted to do more than find the actual cause of death. It is intolerable that a man should be put on his trial for murder with a verdict of guilty already recorded against him.

The Eighteenth Century Press on Party.

"Letter to a young gentleman about to go to a University: 'But above all I must advise you never to engage, at least not with any degree of violence, in any Party. Be not transported by the clamorous jollity of talking patriots, beyond the sober dictates of reason and justice: nor let the insinuating voice of corruption tempt you to barter your integrity and peace of mind for the paltry satisfaction of improving your future. Perhaps, indeed, if you shall hereafter engage in elections and spend your own money to support another's cause, the person in whose interest you are may shake you by the hand: and swear you are a very honest gentleman—just as butchers treat their bulldogs, who spit in their mouths, clap them on the back, and then haloo them on to be tossed and torn by the horns of their antagonist.'"—*The Connoisseur*, August 21st, 1755.

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—See page 513.

"Seeing Life."

The young Prince of Wales has about him an air of frankness and good spirits which bids fair to exalt his manhood to the highest pinnacle of popularity. He is what one calls a clean-looking boy—a boy for study and a boy for play, each in its place; and this is the sort of boy for our money. We are glad he has commenced to see life in Paris, in conditions which will permit of considerable freedom. The next few years will be the critical period in shaping his character for his future as the hereditary head of an Empire now passing through a wondrous change. He will require all the training which can be given him—and in that training the University of Life is worth all the books. So he begins well.

"If You See It," etc.

"*Daily News*," *April 10th*. John Bull, *Dec. 23rd*, 1911.

Miners Penalised Under Wage Act.

A new phase of the enforced adoption of the minimum wage scheme has arisen. It is the refusal of the employers to re-engage middle-aged men. I have to-day had conversations with men who have spent their lifetime in the mines, but are now rejected by the management because they are over 45 years of age.

The Labour War of 1912.

The Minimum Wage.

The owners warn their employés that if they were wise they would never ask it—as their own commonsense should tell them that in such an event it would mean that only the strongest and most competent miners would find work.

Jones to Brown (*outside house, after dining at club*): "Won't you come in a minute, old chap?"

Brown: "Well, how's the enemy?"

Jones: "That's all right—*she's in bed.*"

TIED UP.

Party Politics: No Head Required.

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

["*Taking the Biscuit*" *has become a classic phrase, expressive of a satirical reward or recognition. In this column we present, in all good humour, the token to such of our contemporaries and others as may have distinguished themselves by some unconventional utterance or act.*]

For reporting Mr. Hinds, M.P., as asking: "whether it was the intention of the Government under the Riot Damages Act, 1886, or any other Act, to recompense traders for the losses sustained by them IN CONSEQUENCE OF THE PUBLIC FUNDS *towards the cost of* REPAIRING THE WOMEN *in the West End of London,"*

THE LANCASHIRE DAILY POST
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "Mr. Curtis's band played magnificently several fine selections from 'Faust,' 'Bohemian Girl,' etc., also a flute and clarionet duet and a cornet solo. The audience thoroughly appreciated it and SHOWED MARVELLOUS POWER OF ENDURANCE,"

THE MESSENGER (Kettering)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that a prisoner "stood in the dock with his BACK CLASPING HIS RIGHT ARM,"

THE MANCHESTER EVENING CHRONICLE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating, in its description of the Easter Bank Holiday festivities, that: "Though, happily, NO DISASTER INVOLVING THE LOSS OF LIFE *has marred the holiday season so far* SEVERAL FATALITIES *are reported,"*

THE DAILY CHRONICLE
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For advertising that their "turnery department is not only concerned with ordinary kitchen needs, but with constantly new and attractive, and economical devices for LENGTHENING *and simplifying the work of the household."*

MESSRS. SELFRIDGE AND CO., LTD.,
TAKE THE BISCUIT.

For stating, in an article published in the "Saturday Post" (Dundee), that: "We might have ALL *the aces in the pack, but the other fellow is sitting with* THIRTEEN TRUMPS,"

MR. COLIN VEITCH
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For recommending as a substitute for a golf-stick "a walking-stick with a STRAIGHT CROOK,"

THE DAILY MAIL
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For publishing in its issue of February 26th last a description of the weaving by Miss Foakes, of Sudbury, of the velvet " TO BE USED *by the Queen at the* CORONATION CEREMONY IN JUNE,"

THE EVENING RECORD (Hackensack, New Jersey)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating, under the heading "Holiday Troubles": "Nothing is so wasteful as cumbrous luggage, and it need hardly be pointed out that the possession of it is not only a BOON *to railway companies, but it* ENABLES THE TRAVELLER, *for example,* TO USE A 'TUBE,' *where before he might have been* COMPELLED *to hire a cab,"*

THE DAILY SKETCH
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

HALF-A-CROWN FOR EVERY "BISCUIT" PUBLISHED.

We give 2s. 6d. to the sender of every "Biscuit" published. Should the same "Biscuit" be forwarded by more than one competitor, preference will be given to the reader whose letter is first opened. In forwarding newspaper cuttings, sufficient must be sent to identify the name of the paper and date of issue.

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—*See page 513.*

THE HOME RULE DRAMA.—ACT III.

BY HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

SCENE I.

At half-past seven in the morning of Thursday, April 11th, I walked across St. James's Park to the House, to secure my seat for Act III. of the Home Rule drama. On another occasion I may have something to say about the fact that the first thing which a Member of Parliament has to do is to find the "seat" which he has won. Personally, I have no cause for complaint, having, in the course of the past six years, established a recognised claim to my own particular corner; but I had been away from the House for a few months, and considered it prudent to be there at the opening of the doors (at eight o'clock) for the purpose of leaving the necessary card to indicate my intention of being present at prayers. As an old parliamentary reporter, I remembered Acts I. and II.—of 1886 and 1893—when members waited in hundreds for the opening of the doors and fought and scrambled for their places.

Big Ben chimed a quarter to eight as I entered Palace Yard and exchanged greetings with the policeman on duty. "Many Members down yet?" I inquired. "About a dozen," was the reply. And I was soon one of the little crowd outside the locked door of the People's Chamber. There were Remnant and "Paddy" Goulding—two of the pillars of the Opposition, and likewise "two of the best"—Colonel Burn, always an early bird, Sir Edwin Cornwall, young Alan Burgoyne, Sir John Lonsdale—who gets younger every day—cheery "Charley Beresford," and a few others. The only Labour man was Lansbury, who is rapidly impressing a strong and pleasant personality upon the House. I was wedged up against the commanding figure of Mr. George Faber, the owner of "Uncle Pat," who seemed to be under the impression that I was in some way partly responsible for the defeat of his horse i the Lincoln Handicap. He is, however, the best of good sportsmen, and consoled himself, as owners have a knack of doing, by thinking rather of the big race he is about to win than of the one he had lost. The ten minutes soon passed in pleasant chat and chaff, and a moment before the lock was turned I counted the "crowd" of which the papers spoke later in the day, and found that it numbered—24! Such was Scene I. in the New Act.

SCENE II.

Prayers are at 2.45. At 2.40 I walked into the inner lobby, and thence into the House. A big change had occurred. The chamber was crowded, and everybody was more or less excited—*I* was, less. Punctual to the minute, as ever, Mr. Speaker was announced, and we all rose to receive him, as, followed by Chaplain and Sergeant-at-Arms, he entered the House. Prayers, always unnecessarily long, on this occasion seemed interminable, and it was with a sigh of relief that we sat down and watched Archdeacon Wilberforce walk backwards out of the House. Then came Questions, to which nobody listened; and, incidentally, I was struck by an evidence of the extent to which, at this stage, the personality of the Prime Minister dominated the situation. The first few questions were addressed to Mr. Birrell, who, as Irish Secretary, is nominally in charge of the Home Rule Bill—and yet not a cheer greeted his rising! We were all waiting for Asquith.

SCENE III.

And at last he rose, receiving, of course, the appropriate ovation from his Party. I observed, also, that not a few of the Opposition involuntarily joined in the greeting, for, after all, it was a big occasion, and they felt that the man deserved a cheer. You see, nobody dislikes the Premier, who, since he assumed power, has never made an enemy. In halting, nervous tones he began—recalling the circumstances of the last Home Rule campaign, in which he took an active part, and more than once referring to his "nearly a quarter of a century of Parliamentary life." Scrupulously avoiding all oratorical tricks, he soon made it clear that he was in grim earnest, every now and again illuminating a carefully prepared and lucid speech with some brilliantly polished and classic phrase which arrested the admiration of the whole House. Leaving the "historical argument" on one side (and historical arguments are always misleading, unless times and circumstances remain unchanged), he prepared the House for the Bill by a recital of the events of the past few years, maintaining that they had paved the way for the grant of local autonomy. Then came a remarkably clear exposition of the measure, the details of which are now public property. With these, to-day, I am not concerned. But I pause to remark that what from the general point of view of the Government Party is their main fault—*i.e.*, the *Nominated* Senate—is in my opinion one of the best and wisest provisions. *No Senate should be subject to the caprice of popular election.* That, however, by the way. At the moment I have not the Bill before me. Later on I shall examine it. The main difficulty I at present foresee is in connection with the Irish representation at Westminster. If Ireland, why not the Isle of Man, and the Channel Islands—to say nothing of India and the Colonies? But perhaps Federal Home Rule will cure all that, and, meanwhile, one anomaly more or less will not matter. There can be no doubt that from a purely personal point of view (and perhaps from a political one also), Mr. Asquith scored the triumph of his life. By the way, have you ever noticed his remarkable likeness to Corot, the great French painter?

SCENE IV.—A DULL START.

Then came the beginning of the fight. In accordance with arrangement, Sir Edward Carson rose to lead the rebel hosts of Ulster, reinforced by the whole Unionist Party, against the Government. A rumour had got afloat that we were to have a great fighting speech, and that the battle was to develop with dramatic rapidity. Members, however, had forgotten something of which they had been warned in this journal months ago, namely, that Sir Edward is a very sick man. Indeed, but for this Home Rule business he would have relinquished all work, both political and legal, and have gone abroad for a rest-cure long ago. The note of disappointment was soon struck. Adopting the same reminiscent mood with which the Prime Minister had commenced, of having been one of those who took part in the '93 fight, there came in sad and halting tones the regret: "I wish to-day I had the strength and energy I then possessed." Thereafter the speech, entirely lacking in fire, was but the skilful pleading of the experienced advocate—biting, satirical, and merciless, but never exalted. Here is a specimen: "Why does not the Government put its promise of Federal Home Rule in the Preamble?—then we should know it is false"—a stinging reference to the unfulfilled preamble of the Parliament Act. This sort of thing, however, was not the kind of matter the House wanted, and when Sir Edward sat down there was a general feeling that the Ulster rebellion had fizzled out and the Government

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—See page 513.

were to have a much clearer course than their best friends had anticipated. So far, the only call to arms had been the periodical interruptions of Captain Craig—who feels and looks the part. There *may* be civil war in Ireland—but Sir Edward Carson will not lead it.

Redmond's Pledge.

The House was now in a subdued mood, and only considerations of the fitness of things induced Members to remain for Mr. Redmond's speech—which was the essence of tact and taste. There was no suspicion of gloating over the Ulster men, but, on the contrary, an earnest appeal for mutual forbearance; a fervid declaration of loyalty to the Empire, and an eloquent plea for peace and goodwill. It was, perhaps, a little daring of the Irish leader to conclude with a long quotation from the House of Commons prayer, but his obvious sincerity restrained even Captain Craig from interruption. Accepting the Bill as a final and complete settlement of the "Irish Question," opposition was largely, and skilfully, disarmed—and, truth to tell, nobody wished to hear any more.

Labour's Blessing.

But there was still the Labour Party to be heard, and, accordingly, up rose Mr. Ramsay Macdonald to voice their views. It goes without saying that he blessed the Bill and promised his Party's support—but then he does what he likes with his Party—the best proof of which is to be found in the fact that without consulting them in any way, he expressed approval of the Nominated Senate—although most of his "followers" had scoffed at the suggestion. I am bound to say that on the whole his was, next to Mr. Asquith's, the best speech. I do not like the man, and never shall, but he is the brains of the Party—as "clever as paint," and as cold as ice. I am not sure that the Irish Members appreciated his argument that one of the advantages of Home Rule would be that they would probably have contested elections, with the privilege of paying their own expenses; whilst he also spoilt a good point—about the blinding of the Belfast poor to their own interests by the waving of the flag of religious strife before their eyes—by the suggestion that under this Bill, a group of Parties would spring up in Ireland. Party, in politics, is just as pernicious as sect in religion. Perhaps the best thing he said was that "when slum landlords are discovered, they become religious."

The Next Act.

I had now heard the official declarations of the four recognised Parties in the House. Taken together, they constituted Act III. of the Home Rule drama; and I remained in my seat, in a half-empty chamber, for a quarter of an hour thinking the matter over. I began to understand why only 24 Members were present in the early morning. The novelty and scare of Home Rule have worn off. Given a fairly equitable plan, the country would be glad to be quit, once and for all, of the "Irish Question." And there are two difficulties, and two only in the way. Can North-East Ulster be appeased, or reconciled?—and *can any Bill survive the ordeal of the machinery of the Parliament Act?* On the first point, I do not entertain any very serious doubt. A hint at the solution was provided by an exchange of words between Carson and Redmond, during the debate. I expect to see, in the end, some special delegation of power to Ulster. But in regard to the second point, I am not so sanguine. The Bill will have to be a model of perfection, backed up by strong public opinion, to withstand the Battledore and Shuttlecock process of the Parliament Act. And, then, too, the Government must remain in power till 1914. Still, on the whole, the impression left in my mind is that we are in sight of peace.

NATIONAL CASH REGISTERS.

SERIOUS TROUBLE IN AMERICA.

The following information, extracted from American newspapers, will probably interest our readers:—

On the22nd February an indictment was returned against the principal officers of the National Cash Register Company of Dayton, Ohio. Its first count charges that the defendants, John H. Patterson and Robert Patterson, and a number of other officers and sales agents of the Company, were engaged in a conspiracy to restrain and obstruct the inter-State trade and commerce of numerous other cash register concerns.

It is alleged that nearly all competitive concerns have been bought up or driven out of business.

This restraint the indictment alleges has been in operation for the last twenty years and has been effected by numerous unfair and unlawful means, such as the bribing of the employés of competitors and the bribing of transport, telegraph and telephone companies, the requiring of agents to libel the machines of competitors, the selling of imitations of competitive machines, and the organisation of bogus corporations, pretending to be competitors, as well as making applications for letters patent on machines invented by competitors.

Summarised, the specific allegations in the indictment are as follows:—

1. Inducing, hiring and bribing employés and ex employés of competitors to disclose their business secrets.
2. Inducing, hiring and bribing employés of transport telegraph and telephone companies to furnish information of competitive concerns.
3. Using the influence of the National Cash Register Company with banking and financial institutions to injure the credit of competitors.
4. Casting reflections upon the reliability and standing of the competitive companies, placing machines of competitors upon exhibit as "junk" for sale at "30 cents on the dollar," and instructing and requiring sales agents to tamper with and injure competitors' machines.
5. Organising bogus manufacturing concerns and sale concerns of cash registers, ostensibly as competitors, but in fact as convenient instruments in gaining the secrets of real competitors.
6. Applying for or causing application to be made for letters patent upon the cash registers of competitors.
7. Generally, unlawful engagement and conscious participation in conspiracy to restrain trade of competitors by unfair pressure, and tortuous, illegal and unlawful means.

On the 23rd February, according to the reports contained in the *Dayton Daily News*, Mr. John H. Patterson, the President of the National Cash Register Company, appeared in the Courts on a charge of conspiracy, and twelve of those indicted, including Mr. John H. Patterson, had to give bail for 5,000 dollars for their re-appearance.

THE LONDON FRIENDLY INSTITUTION.

HARSH TREATMENT OF A MEMBER.

The London Friendly Institution was established in 1824. H. S. Harrison (B. 11297) has been a member for nine years. He is a married man with five children, and falling ill with influenza he applied for sick benefits. This is the letter he received in reply:—

> With reference to your application for sick benefit, I have to again draw your attention to the provisions of Rule 18 and to the terms of the notice therein referred to, a copy of which was posted to you on the 18th ult., namely, that unless a member clears the books of the Society within four weeks from the previous quarterly pay night he will be excluded. *You are still indebted to the Society in the sum of 3d. for Annual Report*, as stated in my letter to you dated the 26th ult., and which you have disregarded. Under these circumstances I regret to inform you that the Society cannot admit you to benefit in respect of your present illness. (Signed) F. J. Pearse, Secretary.

Considering that 1s. 6d. a quarter is charged for management, we certainly think that the manner in which Harrison has been treated is anything but "Friendly."

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—*See page 513.*

BEHIND THE VEIL OF LONDON LIFE.

BUSINESS GIRLS, BEWARE!

By Our Special Commissioner.

[This week we commence what will prove to be a startling series of articles by Our Special Commissioner, giving the result of an extensive investigation, upon which he has been engaged for some time past, into the hidden life of London—the Modern Babylon. We shall do our utmost to avoid wounding the susceptibilities of the most fastidious reader, but the story we have to tell is a solemn and momentous one, and will, we trust, be of inestimable service to the community.]

I have before me the print of a Bill which is to be laid before the House of Commons by Mr. King, the Member for North Somerset. Its title is "The Prevention of Immorality Bill." It is a document occupying 30 closely printed pages, the whole details of which are unprintable in the public press. Some of the less lurid I shall, however, refer to.

Some Clauses of Mr. King's Bill.

(1) *Procuration.*—The maximum penalty the Bill seeks to inflict is seven years' imprisonment.

Now what does this clause admit? That here, in a Christian country, there are people who make it a business to procure girls for immoral purposes. The procurer, or procuress, is by no means a rare person, in spite of so few prosecutions. These parasites are as a rule most cunning, and therefore difficult to convict. Almost the only time they are caught napping is when they give way to drink, and consequently get careless.

There are different grades of procurers and procuresses, for the word is capable of wide definition, so a couple of cases by way of illustration may be of service in opening the eyes of unsuspecting parents, and guarding the business girl in large cities against persons she is likely to look upon as new-found friends.

Police Apathy.

About two years ago I received several anonymous letters from Birmingham in reference to a woman who kept a house of ill-fame. It was said she was a procuress also, although this would be difficult to prove. Two months later a signed letter from a parent of a girl in Birmingham came to hand, and the complaint was in reference to the very person mentioned in the anonymous letters. After consultation with the Editor, I proceeded to Birmingham and interviewed the writer of the letter. From the evidence placed before me there seemed no doubt whatever that a "white slave" den of the very worst type was being run under the nose of the police in the heart of the city. I endeavoured to persuade the father of the girl who had been led astray to prosecute. Like most parents, however, he refused. "Publicity would kill my wife," he said.

And here we have the great stumbling-block in bringing these social pests to justice. After seeing it was no use relying on the outraged parent for help beyond giving me the "pointer," I proceeded to make investigation for myself. The result appeared in these columns at the time, so all I need mention is that I interviewed the woman under suspicion, ascertained beyond a doubt that she was running the "white slave" business—she actually entered into an agreement to supply me with "a young girl from the country" for a few sovereigns! Fully expecting a prosecution would result, I held my witnesses for some months, but nothing happened beyond the receipt of an offensive letter from the vampire I had exposed. This letter, by the way, was published in these columns immediately on its receipt. During the time I was keeping my witnesses well in hand, in view of a prosecution, I had the woman's house watched, and under the very eyes of the police she still continued to run it as a house of accommodation. Just recently the authorities have taken it into their heads to act. The woman is now serving six months' imprisonment for "keeping a disorderly house," but, strange to relate, the police-court proceedings did not appear in a single newspaper!

Let me now give some account of the more subtle creatures. About 12 months ago I received a letter from a young lady, telling me of the manner in which a girl friend had been entrapped into a house not far from Regent Street, drugged and outraged. I asked her to bring the victim to this office, which she did, and in the presence of my stenographer she related the following story, on condition that I did not publish her name or draw her into a prosecution. Here again we find the fear of publicity, and consequently the escape of the culprit. She was ready enough to supply me with full details, so that I might work the case up for myself, and by these means she relied upon getting revenge for the outrage, but she was not prepared to face the music herself. Briefly her story was as follows: She was a typist, and daily she used to visit a certain cheap but popular restaurant for the purpose of getting lunch. For several days running she was joined at the same table by a well-dressed woman, whose age might be anything between thirty and forty. This casual acquaintance at last commenced conversation, and perhaps not unnaturally the subject of discussion turned upon food, and the difficulty of getting a decent lunch at a moderate figure. The "lady" usually had her lunch at a place adjacent—a private house—but the landlady was away for a few days; would the girl care to join her some day when the landlady returned? Never suspecting anything wrong, the girl consented, and in the course of a few days she found herself seated at lunch in this private establishment.

Falling into the Trap.

The lunch was a marvel of cheapness. After a week the friendship ripened, and confidences were exchanged. As the girl was living in apartments (her parents being in the country), her new-found friend suggested she should be her guest at dinner. The girl consented. After dinner they went to a theatre, then back to the kind landlady's for supper. Here she was persuaded to have a glass of wine. She became drowsy, and as the hour was late she consented to share a bed with her new acquaintance, and remain the night. I will draw the veil as to what actually happened afterwards, except to state that during the night her companion was changed. The procuress had achieved her object. In the morning, more dead than alive, the girl managed to get to her lodgings in the suburbs. Her landlady was a widow and had been sitting up all night for her, so, of course, some sort of explanation had to be given. Being a girl of spirit, she hid her grief and told a story which seemed quite feasible. She managed to get to business, but with no fixed idea as to what she would do in the matter. At this time, she was engaged to be married, and weighing all the circumstances of the case in a manner peculiar to a certain type of London business girl, she came to the conclusion that if any of the facts leaked out her chance of marriage would be reduced to a minimum. Yet she thirsted for revenge, but how to obtain it she had not the slightest idea. A partial opportunity, however, came in her way quite unexpectedly. While taking lunch in the same popular restaurant she was wont to visit, her eyes rested on a girl she knew fairly well, whose companion was that same procuress. Like a tigress let loose from her cage, she dashed across to their table. The procuress, however, saw her approach and made a sudden exit. The girl whom she had saved was the girl from whom I received the letter drawing my attention to the case.

Next week I shall give an account of my meeting with the vampire, and then continue with other points in Mr. King's Bill.

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—*See page 513.*

HOSPITALS, OR TORTURE CHAMBERS?

HOW POOR PATIENTS ARE EXPLOITED.

By T. W.

Of the many thousands of poor people who yearly attend at our great London hospitals for treatment—people who cannot afford the luxury of independent advice—how many could tell terrible tales of unnecessary pain and misery experienced?

The writer was prompted to ask himself this question some little time ago, on an occaion when he took a boy to a well-known institution on the north side of the river. The youngster had broken his arm in two places. It occurred at about 7 o'clock in the evening, and some astonishment was caused by reason of the blunt manner in which the boy was received by no less a personage than the door-keeper. However, after correctly replying to that individual's inquisitorial catechism, we were shown into the out-patients' room, and a nurse stated that she would send for the house surgeon. The youth was in great pain, and I urged her to be as quick as possible. We were left to ourselves for half an hour or so, when a young gentleman passing through the room caught sight of us and became interested. He came over to us and asked for particulars. Thinking he was a junior surgeon I told him as much as I was able, and his face assumed a delighted expression. I was somewhat surprised, and even more so when the young man strode over to the door and shouted:—

"Hi, you—Johnson, Williams—here's a good case!"

With that a troupe of enthusiastic but very youthful men dashed into the room in very much the same manner as they would take a scrum at "footer." One of them took hold of the boy's arm and gave it a twist to the left asking, "Does that hurt?"

The boy's reply was a howl of pain.

He then twisted the broken arm to the right, with the same result. Some of his colleagues varied the proceedings by giving the affected limb numerous little pokes, and so on, until at last I remonstrated, perhaps not too mildly, and asked why the house surgeon had not come. The reply was instructive:

"Oh, he's at dinner. He won't be long."

Eventually the house surgeon appeared, and gave the lad the attention which by that time was so necessary.

The relation of the foregoing episode merely illustrates the manner in which the victims of accidents are treated.

Should a poor devil become afflicted with some illness necessitating frequent visits to the out-patients' ward, his sickness can generally be reckoned to develop with startling rapidity owing to the nauseating freedom with which ghastly wounds are exposed to his gaze. I suppose the wooden souls of the doctors and nurses do not revolt at such unnecessary displays, but the ordinary man in the street is seized with colic.

The dreary hours of waiting, coupled with the general sourness of the surroundings, are calculated to offend the senses of the strongest.

In this connection, another pertinent question suggests itself. Educationalists have made such giant strides during the past decade that our school children are now subjected to a rigorous physical examination at prescribed periods. Thousands of children are found to be suffering from some slight disease or other. Such things, for instance, as adenoids are discovered in otherwise healthy children and obviously should be seen to in early life. However, when one realises that the medical profession works hand-in-glove with the hospitals or training-grounds which produced them, and in view of the fact that it is necessary that students should have something to practise on, very serious possibilities attend the recommendations of the medical officers.

A lady who takes a class at a school not a thousand miles from Southwark Cathedral had a curious experience some time ago. She noticed that a great many of the children were having teeth out, and eventually she became suspicious and made a few inquiries. Judge of her astonishment when she was informed by the youngsters that they liked having their teeth taken out "because the gentlemen give us twopence for each tooth"!

It may be necessary for students to study concrete cases, but surely this is carrying enthusiasm too far.

"SIMULATION" AND DIS-SIMULATION.

HOLLOW PROMISES FROM HOLLOWAY.

From 89, Cornwallis Road, Upper Holloway—the address from which "The Bargain Watch Company" and "The London Fine Art Company" conducted their depredations upon the pockets of the unsophisticated—Williams and Lloyd are working the old "gold simulation" watch trick, carried on by the first-named disreputable concern. An innocent old lady parted with three or four shillings for a trumpery chain, together with 4s. for certain postcards upon a promise of a "HANDSOME 18ct. GOLD Simulation Lever Watch" (the capitalisation is that of Williams and Lloyd), only to discover the truth of the saying that all that glitters is not gold. Before dispatching the watch—that is, before the disillusionment—Williams and Lloyd actually had the audacity to endeavour to get a further half-crown for a "Beautiful Leatherette Plush Finished Hinged Back Case" (Phew!), "fitted with patent snap," in which to keep the "Handsome Watch" (the firm's rapture at the loveliness of their goods invariably expresses itself in capitals), which they strongly advise, as it "insures against loss or breakage in the post"! One of the means by which the simple-minded are induced to part with their cash is the publication on the sharpers' announcements of the words "Bankers—London and South Western, Ltd." No doubt, now that the matter has been brought to their notice, the Bank will see that its name is not so misused again. It is surely time that the police took drastic steps against the rascals.

WANTON WASHING.

A COMMOTION IN CHASTE CHICHESTER.

A Chichester gentleman, who has the great honour of living next door to a bank clerk, is so far from appreciating this distinction as to permit his wife the plebeian habit of doing at home a small portion of the family washing. The garments hung in the garden to dry are of the usual description, and therefore not such as to shock or offend any person of healthy mind. He has, nevertheless, received from Mr. Fred Stride, of Messrs. Stride and Son, auctioneers, of Chichester—who apparently look after the property—the following pathetic letter:—

> I have been requested by Mr. Chase to write and ask if you could somehow arrange to put your washing out to dry on another part of your premises. It appears that it can now be seen from Mr. Chase's principal reception rooms, and is, I think you will agree, not a very pleasant sight, especially to the ladies. Mr. Chase does not wish to be unpleasant in any way, and if you could somehow arrange to have these clothes hung in another part of your garden where they could not be seen from his principal rooms, he would, I am sure, feel very grateful to you. I must apologise for troubling you over this matter, but I know you will quite agree that it is not pleasant to one to look out of one's window and see miscellaneous garments hanging out to dry.

Alas! for the amiable intentions of the intervener—the owner of the "miscellaneous garments" has taken no notice of his communication, and what his neighbour apparently considers white wantonness still defiantly braves the Sussex breeze.

THE JERSEY MILITIA.

A FORCE OF ALIENS WHO DO NOT SWEAR ALLEGIANCE TO THE KING.

We suggest to the Secretary of State for War that it is time that that comic-opera force, the Jersey Militia, was thoroughly overhauled. When enlisting, the men swear no allegiance to the ruling monarch of this country. They generally have no physique, no discipline, and very little morals. If such a thing as a prime cost book is kept in the War Office, we shall be glad to know the exact amount of money spent out of the Army Estimates on this farcical force.

"MRS. BULL"
AN IDEAL PAPER FOR WOMEN.
Every Tuesday. One Penny.

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—See page 513.

TRAM AND 'BUS ACCIDENTS.

HOW GENUINE SUFFERERS ARE HANDICAPPED.

By One of Them.

There is a feeling abroad at the present time that the authorities of the various tramway and omnibus undertakings in London adopt a somewhat too unreasonable attitude in dealing with members of the public who make *bona fide* claims for accidents which they have sustained.

During the course of a year, the number of claims made upon these various corporations amount to several thousands, and it is only natural that compensation expenses should be kept as low as possible out of regard for the pockets of the ratepayers and shareholders, respectively, but justice should be done.

Among the claims put forward, a large percentage are very far from being genuine, and this has so often been proved to be the case, that the policy of officials now seems to be invariably the same—namely, short shrift for all claims.

Costermongers, and others, often wheel an extremely old and rotten barrow in any street in which tramlines are laid, make the barrow collapse in some way or another, and then claim on the tramway officials for damage alleged to be due to defective metals, a contention which it is very difficult to disprove.

Again, many persons who witness a serious collision between, say, a motor 'bus and another vehicle, walk up to the conductor of the omnibus in the confusion which follows and state that they were on it at the time the accident occurred, and that they are much the worse for the experience. When asked to produce their ticket, it is urged that it has been lost during the excitement of the moment. It is very difficult to prove the falseness of this statement, so names and addresses are taken by the conductor, and more bogus claims are thrust forward.

On the other hand, numbers of persons honestly meet with various kinds of accidents—such as being jerked off the step by the sudden starting of a vehicle which has just been boarded, being injured in a collision between two tramcars, in one of which the claimants were travelling, and so forth.

All these claims, bogus and genuine, have to be investigated carefully, but in the result, the word of the companies' servants seems more frequently to be accepted in preference to that of the passengers.

Perhaps a couple of instances will suffice, and they are perfectly authentic ones.

A man was desirous of boarding a motor-'bus, and he hailed it a few moments before it reached where he was standing. The driver of the vehicle pulled up with a jerk to a dead stop, and the man put one foot on the bottom step, but before he had time to get properly on the omnibus suddenly started, with the result that the man was thrown into the road, severely injured, and put to heavy loss and expense. The authorities accepted the version of their servants and a policeman that the man attempted to board the omnibus while in motion, a proceeding which is, of course, against the regulations, and rejected the man's statement, supported by an independent and disinterested witness, that he was jerked off the step. No compensation was forthcoming, and as the victim had no money to risk in abiding the result of a judge's decision, he had to grin and bear his painful and unfortunate position. This occurrence is typical of many, and the treatment meted out in such cases is grossly unfair.

Again, a frequent cause of accident is this: A tramcar stops within a few yards of a terminus, in order to let another car, which has previously arrived, cross over on to the other line for its return journey. The passengers of the car which arrived last are not aware of what is taking place, and as the one in which they are seated is at a standstill, they proceed to alight. Suddenly, without any warning, the car jerks forward to the actual end of the line, throwing one or more passengers down. If anyone makes a claim, it is merely stated that passengers must wait until the car reaches the terminal stopping point. In one such case recently, a woman who was injured in this manner was refused all compensation, although she had a perfectly legitimate claim. She was not in a position to go to law, and she was eventually left in a destitute condition through illness consequent on the accident.

"ADDING INSULT TO INJURY."

THE RICARDO REMEDY COMPANY'S PECULIAR DENIAL.

The Ricardo Remedy Company, of Central House, 12, Aldgate, write us in reference to our recent paragraph under this heading. They very coolly say that their references to the law not allowing them to sell the book "Secrets of Marriage," is "of course only a mail order 'gag' or advertising device." Blunt people, however, would style it something else. They also say that they are utterly at a loss to understand why our correspondent should consider his daughter's susceptibilities outraged at the receipt of a circular "relating to a purely medical work." Well, we cannot refute this statement by printing a portion of the "synopsis" sent to tempt purchasers. We have the document before us, and our readers must accept our word that seldom has anything more suggestive and wantonly dirty been sent through the post. If the synopsis is anything more than another "gag," the police should intervene. If not, of course, the telling of lies is not a criminal offence, though in this case the matter approaches the obtaining of money by false pretences.

The company deny that they obtained the name and address of our correspondent's daughter by inserting the advertisement for a hotel housekeeper, they stating that they buy their names and addresses from regular dealers. The following extract from their letter is interesting:—

> In the course of our business we, in common with many other circularising firms, purchase lists of names and addresses on a somewhat large scale, and it does not seem to have occurred to your correspondent that if his daughter has held shares in a public company, or has ever answered advertisements, either for free samples, or goods by mail order, that possibly her name appears on one of these lists, more especially as there is quite a big trade done in compiling and selling such names and addresses for circularising purposes.

Readers should therefore exercise discrimination in replying to tempting advertisements—which may have been inserted for the sole purpose of obtaining names and addresses of possible dupes.

In reference to the advertisement, a Sheffield reader tells us that his sister answered another in a local paper, for musical comedy aspirants, and, in reply, received exactly the same kind of circulars. These were placed in the hands of the London police, and an officer called upon our correspondent and informed him that "*the person who inserted the advertisement* had been seen and had promised not to advertise again, and to do his best to keep the book out of the hands of young people." What says the "Ricardo Remedy Company" to this?

By the way, we are informed that rhubarb is the main ingredient of the much-belauded "perles," and that the contents of the "Secrets of Marriage" have been lifted bodily from a well-known American work.

THE BELMONT WORKHOUSE.

THE FULHAM GUARDIANS EXPLAIN.

In our issue of April 6th we asked whether it was correct that at the Belmont Workhouse the inmates had been without any heat in their day rooms during the recent spell of cold weather. The Fulham Guardians now inform us that it "is quite true that the majority of day rooms have not been heated during the past week or two, as owing to the uncertainty of the duration of the coal strike, it was deemed desirable to reserve coal for use in sick wards and for cooking food."

We went on to state that during the same period £20 7s. was expended in grass seed for the officers' cricket ground and bowling green. The Guardians admit that it is correct that the sum mentioned was expended on grass seed, but the cricket ground and bowling greens, they say, are for the use, not of officers, but epileptic inmates of the workhouse, of whom there are over 200 of ages ranging from 16 years and upwards, and who by reason of their affliction have been forced out of the labour market. The Guardians "feel sure that we and our readers will appreciate the fact that healthy recreation is as essential a part of their treatment as is the provision of food and drugs." We have much pleasure in publishing this explanation.

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—See page 513.

ACCIDENT, OR "NATURAL CAUSES"?

A WORD WITH THE RAILWAY PASSENGERS' ASSURANCE CO.

Mr. John Bartlett was a policyholder in the Railway Passengers' Assurance Company for a number of years. In February last he met with an accident. In placing a penny in the slot of a gas-meter he fell down a flight of stairs, at the foot of which he lay until the landlady found him, and had him sent to the infirmary, where he died some ten days afterwards.

An inquest was subsequently held, and the medical evidence showed that death was from heart failure, set up by loss of blood, a verdict of "Accidental Death" being returned.

While in hospital, Mr. Bartlett made an accident claim for sick pay in conformity with his policy. From a letter we have before us, the Company acknowledged the justice of the claim, stating: "The matter of your claim having been duly considered, I have pleasure to inform you that the sum of £7 10s. has been awarded as compensation in full, and I enclose a cheque for the amount."

Let us make this transaction perfectly clear. The sum awarded was in respect of the accident, but that was only a part of the liability of the Company. In case of death, the further liability was £250. When Bartlett died, his son made a claim for the sum assured, when to his astonishment he received the following letter:—

> Referring to your call here this afternoon with your brother, Mr. Arthur Bartlett, as we understand that it is your intention to make a claim under the above policy for the death of your father, we hereby give you notice that we desire to have a post-mortem examination of the body, in accordance with the conditions of the policy. As you gave permission this afternoon for this to be done, we are making arrangements accordingly.
>
> There will be a question as to the legality of your claim, in view of the discharge which your father gave the company, and we reserve in this and any other matter all rights we may have.

At the time this letter was received, the body of the deceased was lying at the undertaker's premises, there being no accommodation at home. The post-mortem was held, three doctors performing the operation. Mr. Bartlett, junr., was not represented, as he had no means of paying a doctor. On March 20th the Company wrote:—

> We have now received a report of the post-mortem examination in this case, and learn that your father's death was due to natural causes, and not to the accident on the 31st January last.
>
> In these circumstances, no claim exists, and we are not prepared to entertain your further application.

Now we have no wish to dogmatise in a matter of this sort, but looking at it without the slightest shade of sentiment, and purely from a business point of view, we must say that we think the Railway Passengers' Assurance Corporation are not playing the game.

We have before us the report of the Medical Superintendent of the Hackney Union Infirmary, and it winds up by stating: "In my opinion death was due to heart disease with dropsy; the heart failure *being accelerated by the accident.*"

In view of the evidence at the coroner's court, and the acceptance of liability—so far as the accident was concerned—by the Company, we consider the subsequent proceedings were—to say the least of it—very ungenerous. We wonder what percentage of cases in which the verdict of "Accidental Death" is returned at coroners' courts could be converted into "Death from Natural Causes," if only post-mortems were held!

BOTTOMLEY V. ASTBURY AND SIMS.

Appearances having been duly entered to the Writs issued by Mr. Bottomley for libel and conspiracy against Mr. Astbury, K.C., and Mr. Arthur Sims, Statements of Claim have now been delivered; and every effort will be made to expedite the hearing of the actions. The statement that the Attorney-General (Sir Rufus Isaacs) and the Solicitor-General (Sir John Simon) will appear for the defendants is premature.

HUMAN DOCUMENT.—CXC.

[In this column, every week, we publish particulars of some human derelict whose case, after full investigation, we are able to recommend to the charity of our readers. We are happy to say that in this way we have already been the means of bringing comfort into many a wretched home. All amounts subscribed are duly acknowledged, and no deduction of any kind is made by us.]

AN APPEAL FROM AN EX-'BUS CONDUCTOR.

The following letter speaks for itself:

> I am sorry to say have now been out of regular work since September 13th, 1911, and have only done a few odd jobs since, owing to ill-health. I hold a 'bus-conductor's licence at present, but it will expire on May 3rd, this being the eleventh year I have held one. I should be glad if anything could be done for me to enable me to renew it, as I hope now I am feeling stronger again I shall soon be able to use it again. I have had a hard struggle to keep things going, as my wife was laid up for over two months, and was obliged to go into hospital at the finish, when she was confined with our last baby, which is now three weeks old. My eldest boy is 12 years, and we had to have four of the children put into the workhouse when their mother was laid up. We are obliged to have them all back again now their mother is home. As a last chance I am writing to you on their behalf, to see if anything can be done to save us from all going into the workhouse.

We have received the following amounts, which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents" named:—

CLXXXVII.—A. F. C., 40s.; J. B. B., 1s.; T. B., 1s.; R. W. J., 5s.; W. H. F. (Westcliff), £5; "Quiz," 2s. 6d.; E. S. R., 10s.; H. S. J., 2s.; J. H. N., 2s. 6d.; "Saucy Polly," 2s. 6d.; "Fag," 5s.; W. S., 11s.

CLXXXVIII.—Arthur H., 1s.; "Memories H.Z.C.," 1s.; E. K., 2s.; "Auntie and Dilly," 5s.; L. B., 1s.; "Bristol," 2s. 6d.; "Soldier," 20s.; J. E., 5s.; W. K., 2s. 6d.; "Mop," 2s. 6d.; Mrs. M. C. B., 4s.; "Doctor," 4s.; "Change," 5s.; "Elstow," 1s.; "Easter" (Wales), 2s. 6d.; "Poor Widow," 10s.; "Rahdol," 1s.; E. S. R., 10s.; L. A. H. (Transvaal), 10s.; "Anonymous," 10s.; T. S. F., 4s.; A. B., 5s.; R. C., 1s.; "1st Foot," 5s.; "Anonymous," 40s.; E. B., 5s.; W. J. B., 2s.; "Sympathy," 2s. 6d.; "York Leaguer," 1s.; W. D., 1s.; "Poor Polly," 2s. 6d.

CLXXXIX.—L. A. H. (Transvaal), 5s.; R. C., 1s.; M., 2s. 6d. "Peter's Pence," 1s.; "Sympathy," 2s. 6d.; "Nugget," 2s. 6d.; "Poor Polly," 2s. 6d.; E. B., 5s.

OUR COLLECTING BOXES.

By the kindness of many of our readers we are enabled to add to our "Human Document" fund by means of collecting boxes, which they are good enough to place on their premises. We shall be glad to hear from others willing to assist in this work. We defray all expenses of every kind, including the cost of special investigation.

LONDON.—"Anonymous," 1s. 5½d.; Mr. A. E. Gilbert, City Arms, Devons Rd., Bow, 1s. ..d.; Mr. B. Barnett, 266, Devons Rd., Bow, E., 1½d.; Mr. J. Booth, 273, Kingsland Road, Shoreditch, 1d.; Mr. W. M. Hill, The Crown, Mayfield Road, Dalston, 2½d.; Mr. H. Morgan, Crown and Shuttle, 226, High Street, Shoreditch, 2s.; Mr. H. Lane, African Tavern, Poplar, E., 8d.; Mr. Albin Pinks, "Bell," 136, High Street, Shoreditch, 3s.; Messrs. Marsden and Co., 108, Bow Road, E., 4s.; Mr. P. Ellis, Crown and Sceptre, Woolmore Street, Poplar, 1s. 8½d.; Mr. E. Underwood, Bromley Arms, Fairfield Road, Bow, 2s. 10d.; Mr. H. Ault, 7, Albany Street, Camberwell, 5d.; Mr. H. G. Parr, Coach and Horses, Mathias Road, Stoke Newington, 5s. 3½d.; Mr. H. Pannell, 37, Park Street, Upper Street, Islington, 10d.; Mr. H. Atkin, 5, Penton Street, Pentonville, N., 6½d.; Mr. J. Gomm, Bricklayers' Arms, 128, New North Road, N., 4s.; Mr. L. J. Broson, Alwyne Castle, St. Paul's Road, Canonbury, 1s. 8½d.; Mr. G. J. Bletsoe, 31-33, Canonbury Road, N., 2½d.; Mr. W. G. Biden, Clothworkers' Arms, 52, Arlington Street, New North Road, 1s. 5½d.; Mr. N. Abrahams, Harry's Cigar Stores, 163, Mare Street, Hackney, 11½d.; Mr. R. Artzt, 515a, Kingsland Road, N.E., 5d.; Mr. H. Berman, 161, Hackney Road, N.E., 3½d.; Mr. A. Ball, 40, Westgate Street, Hackney, 7d.; Mr. F. E. G. Arnett, Clarendon, 86, Balcorne Street, S. Hackney, 2s. 4d.; Mr. F. C. Duell, The Clarendon, 92, Mildmay Park, N., 2s. 3½d.; Mr. J. H. C. Cassell, 52a, Southgate Road, N., 4d.; Mr. H. Briggs, 50, Newington Green, N., 1s. 8½d.; Mr. A. J. Smith, Birch Tree, Great James' Street, Hoxton, N., 6s.; Mr. Wm. Hirst, Belgrave Hotel, 63, Abbey Road, St. John's Wood, 1s. 6d.; Mr. Ernest Butt, The Rose, 86, Fulham Road, S.W., 4s. 2d.; Mrs. J. C. Egan, Black Lion, 272, High Road, Kilburn, 1s. 6d.; Mr. Ed. Morgan, The Blackstock, Morgan's Corner, Finsbury Park, N., 1s. 11½d.; Mr. J. J. Gomm, Bedford Arms, 28, Blandford Street, Marylebone, 1s. 3d.; Mrs. B. F. Wartman, Butchers' Arms, 256, York Road, N., 1s. 4½d.; Mr. D. Porter, 90, Hornsey Road, N., ½d.; Mr. G. N. Coleman, 3, Queensland Road, Holloway, N., 1s. 0½d.; Mr. J. Beckstidde, 59, Hargrave Road, Upper Holloway, N., 3d.; Mr. H. Breeching, 243, Junction Road, Holloway, N., 1s. 7d.; Mr. T. W. Porter, 714, Holloway Road, N., 1s.; Mrs. E. Powell, 10, Strath Terrace, East Hill, New Wandsworth, 1½d.; Mr. W. H. Pantaney, The Alma, 175, Westbourne Grove, S.W., 2s. 6d.

Total, £3 5s. 7d., of which we have allocated to CLXXXV. 5s. 7d., CLXXXVI. 20s., CLXXXVIII. 40s

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—*See page 513.*

THE KING AND "THE HALLS."

SUGGESTIONS FOR A REAL VARIETY PROGRAMME.

By Richard Morton.

The news that His Majesty has commanded a State performance at the Palace Theatre on June 10th has caused much excitement, perturbation, and searching of mind in music-hall circles. So many interests conflict—both personal and business considerations must be taken into account—that the bigwigs of variety find they have all their work cut out if they would please everybody.

In these circumstances, it gives us great pleasure to come to the assistance of Mr. Alfred Butt, Sir Edward Moss, Mr. Stoll, and the other gentlemen who are deputed to arrange the affair. It is our ambition always to be useful, and we accordingly suggest a programme on the following lines, feeling assured it can offend nobody's susceptibilities, for it eliminates professional jealousy, while it presents a variety show of an order quite novel.

Our suggested programme would include the following items:—

Overture: Topical Medley, "The Wearin' of the Green," "Mulligan Guards," and "The Watch on the Rhine."

Miss Christabel Pankhurst (her only appearance this season, and for this occasion only) in her Celebrated and Unique Act of Mystification, entitled, "The Vanishing Lady."

Mr. David Lloyd George, the Famous Financial Juggler and Equilibrist, who will juggle with the nation's finances and balance them before your eyes in the most bewildering fashion, proving that two and two not only make four, but anything else he likes! This Master of Arithmetic will conclude his marvellous performance with his Screaming Farce, "Ninepence for Fourpence."

Mr. Winston S. Churchill, in his Great Patriotic Sea Song, "Britannia Rules the Waves, and Means to Keep on Doing It!" This youthful vocalist appears in Full Uniform, and the entire production is mounted and staged Regardless of Expense. Six million pounds extra is ready to be spent if necessary. Six millions! The Song of the Century!

The Great Scotch Comedian, Mr. A. Bonar Law, in his Irish-Scotch success, "Whaur's your Johnny Redmond Now?" In this item, garbed in kilts and brandishing a shillelagh, the Popular Comedian expects to make the Hit of his Life.

Messrs. Hartshorn and Stanton, the Inseparable Duettists (Coon Singers, with Black Faces) in their renowned harmonious number, "Down in the Coal Mine, Underneath the Ground!" Digging Dusty Diamonds! Real Safety Lamps! Real Coal! Real Strikes!! A most sensational and realistic performance.

Mr. A. J. Balfour, the Celebrated and Refined Character Impersonator, in an Excerpt from Charles Dickens, realising Wilkins Micawber—"Waiting For Something to Turn Up!" A study true to life.

Mr. G. Bernard Shaw, the Amazing Verbal Acrobat and Contortionist of Logic, in one of his own Fantastic Sketches, entitled "Money Talks; or, How I 'Verted to Variety." A Socialistic Comedy by a Socialistic Comedian.

Sir Edward Carson, the Renowned Animal Trainer, in an Unparalleled Exhibition of Human Intelligence Dominating Brute Force. Holding the Belfast Lion in check with a silken rein! The Trainer has the Ferocious Creature well in hand, but the result would be disastrous should he Let It Go. An astounding Exhibition, but the Audience need not be alarmed; there is absolutely No Danger!

Messrs. Redmond, Devlin, and Dillon, the Irish Glee Singers, who will chortle in their glee their stirring War Song, "We Won't be Happy till we Get it—and We Won't be Happy then!"

The whole to conclude with the Screaming Literary Harlequinade, entitled, "Our Great Writers." Clown, *Mr. Hall Caine*; Pantaloon, *Mr. J. M. Barrie*; Harlequin, *Mr. Rudyard Kipling*; and Columbine, *Miss Marie Corelli*.

"BRAININE" for NERVES and WORRY.
All Chemists, 1/1½.

THE GUEST OF THE EVENING.

EXEMPLARY TOASTS WITH SUGGESTED RESPONSES.

Sir George Alexander.

Gentlemen,—We are honoured this evening with the company of one whose presence has—I speak at least for myself—added succulence to the soup, freshness to the fish, richness to the roast, er—gamesomeness to the game, and warmth to the wine. Some of us have met Sir George Alexander—(loud cheers)—before; some of us meet him this evening for the first time; but all of us have heard his praises sung in bygone days by enthusiastic sweethearts and wives as well as by matinée-mad flappers of our acquaintance. I say "in bygone days," gentlemen, because I am referring to the period of Sir George Alexander's sartorial supremacy upon the stage, before that intrudent star, known to earnest students of the binoculars as Lewis Waller, rose in the East, so to speak, climbed irresistibly to the zenith, and partially eclipsed the glories of our honoured guest in the histrionic firmament.

Gentlemen, the modesty of the successful actor is proverbial, and I have no reason to think that our guest is in that respect different from his kind. I therefore made it my business to acquaint myself with some few particulars of his career, which it is my purpose to convey to you, so that when you raise your glasses to do yourselves the honour of drinking his health, it will be no mere empty—or should I say emptying?—(cheers)—form, but with a working knowledge of his origin, rise, abilities, and achievements—information which I am assured he would be the last to supply you with from his own lips.

Sir George Alexander, gentlemen, was born, strange to say, at Reading, where the biscuits come from. You may see no special significance in this fact; but I would remind you that the essential characteristics of the chief product of that Berkshire town are sweetness, crispness, and digestibility. I see from the blankness of your faces that the compliment implied is too subtle for your appreciation at this late hour, so will leave it for the rugged realm of hard reality and the tiresome territory of truth.

Sir George began the serious business of life by becoming something (of no importance) in the City, but he early formed the ambition to become something (of very considerable importance) in the West End. His craze for amateur acting paved the way. Disgusted with the dreary dulness of commercial drudgery by day, and devoting his nights to the delectable delights of the drama, he formed a quick comparison and made his choice. We know fairly well what he has done since. As "the glass of fashion and the mould of form," he has not only lit the flame of despairing but inextinguishable love in the susceptible bosoms of unnumbered feminine worshippers at the—er—Dionysian shrine, but has excited the enraged emulation of the most awkward and ill-tailored of London's "nuts" and "b-hoys." Is it necessary to say more? Is it needful that I should recount how he became a Moderate Member of the L.C.C.—how he was elevated to the judicial bench—how, only last year, he received from His Majesty King George—(loud cheers)—that thrilling tap on the shoulder that made him Knight? Gentlemen, it is not necessary—(hear, hear)—and I propose, therefore, to conclude these few appreciative biographical comments by asking you to rise in your strength and toast with your wonted enthusiasm the health of our guest, Sir George Alexander! (Prolonged cheers.)

(*Interval for music, other noises, and further refreshments.*)

Sir George Alexander responds:—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,—Unaccustomed as I am to public speaking—(loud laughter)—I cannot forbear to utter—so far as my natural emotion will permit—my poignant thanks for your chairman's extravagant eulogisms and the thoroughness with which you have drunk my health. (Cheers.) That I have been successful I freely admit; but as to that, I will venture to paraphrase a sentence from Addison—(Cries of "Good old Addison!")—to wit, "'Tis not in mortals to *deserve* success, but we've done more, Sempronius—*commanded* it."

WHAT IS YOUR NUMBER?
See page ii. of Cover

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—*See page 513.*

Can you answer these questions?

Every man engaged in business ought to know the answers to these questions. DO YOU know them all?

YOU will probably find it quite easy to answer most of these questions, but unless you are a rare and brilliant exception you will find several others a good deal more difficult. Some of them, indeed, may be altogether beyond you.

And yet, you will agree, they are all questions that you might have to answer any day in your own business. So—if only out of curiosity—run through the list and see how many you can answer correctly.

20 Specimen Questions.

1. What is the exact purpose of a ledger?
2. What do these signs mean: "E. & O. E.," "F.A.S." & "G.A"?
3. How would you open a branch?
4. What is a consignment note?
5. Do you know how to organise a sale?
6. Do you understand office organisation?
7. What is the difference between sending goods on "consignment" and "on sale or return"?
8. How often by law must a factory be "limewashed"?
9. How and when is a judgment summons issued?
10. What is the cost of registering a limited company?
11. What is the rule about doubtful debts in assessing income tax?
12. Do you know how to take out a patent?
13. Must a receipt be in writing to be valid?
14. What exactly is a "special settlement"?
15. How and when can you claim for loss of an article sent by registered post?
16. What is the difference between a factor and a broker?
17. How would you draw up a selling scheme?
18. How does a secured creditor in bankruptcy abandon his security?
19. Is a seaside shopkeeper liable for rates in the winter when his shop is shut up?
20. How can you recover debts at court without the expense of a solicitor or collecting agency?

How Many Did You Answer?

Well, how have you come through this examination in business knowledge? You must not forget that the knowledge of these facts and of many other facts like them is absolutely necessary to you if you mean to succeed. If you are in business for yourself you know how useful you would find it to be able to answer any business problem that arose; if you are working for others you must realise that your employer will value you more highly if he knows he can go to you for information when he needs it.

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How This Concerns You.

These questions may not arise in your business, but others do, and if you think it would mean anything to you to know at once what to say or do in every emergency, you should send the coupon below for a handsome illustrated book on Business, telling all about the "Business Encyclopædia" and giving the names of the successful business men who have written it. It also tells how any reader of John Bull may obtain the complete work in seven volumes for a first payment of 1s. 6d. only, and pay the balance in small monthly payments. Sending the coupon commits you to nothing. Is such an opportunity one you should miss?

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THINGS THAT MATTER.

THE ABOLITION OF POVERTY—I.

By Norman Tiptaft.

At once and above all things let us recognise that the present Parliament and all Parliaments constructed on the same lines are *not* the sort of assemblages to which further compulsory powers may be safely granted. This removal of poverty from the land *is a business proposition*, and not a political measure to be voted for or *against* according to the party whip. The first essential, therefore, is a body of men and *women* to do our legislative work who have an expert knowledge of the work they are required to do. I emphasise "*and women*" because there are many phases of the problem that women are far more competent to grapple with than men. Practically this is a problem of national housekeeping, the object being to see that all members of the *national* family are provided for. Nearly all the *individual* housekeeping is done by women—very little indeed by men. How absurd it is to try and solve the problem on national lines without the help of those who already do the bulk of what is done individually.

A Business Parliament Wanted.

We want, then, a Parliament of men and women elected because they are competent to perform the service we require. We pay our Members of Parliament—and there is no objection to paying still higher wages if necessary—but it must be clearly understood that these people are our *servants—not our masters*—and that if any of them are incompetent they are liable to be "sacked" in the same way as any other public servants. The present method of election must go. Free and popular choice by all men and women above 21 years of age is essential, but only such persons should be available for election as have passed a public examination giving them a certificate of capacity for the work they are required to do. No engineer, for example, would be given a situation if he could not demonstrate that he knew all that was likely to be required of him in connection with engineering. In the same manner no one should be allowed to enter Parliament until he—or she—proved acquaintanceship with all the most pressing social problems and their suggested solution, while for those in the higher circles in Parliament—the Cabinet, as it is now called—a further proof of *competence in organisation* should be required, which would necessitate their having passed a certain period of their lives in some business. This, then, is the prelude to all permanent and effective reform—a Parliament of people who *know something* about the subjects they are to *work at*. Such a Parliament can only be obtained by the *man in the street waking up to the urgency of these things, refusing to be led away by any party "war cries," and* giving his vote to the candidate who under *present circumstances* approximates most nearly to the ideal of the social expert. Wealth, rank, social position—these are not the things you want to elect your parliamentarian for.

Less Lawyers, More Men.

To such a Parliament as I have described the fullest compulsory powers might be safely given. Its very construction would guarantee that it was not the mere tool of certain wealthy plutocrats or aristocrats, nor the battle ground of rival ambitions between unscrupulous politicians. It would be a Parliament not, mayhap, so fashionable as to-day, but neither would it be so ineffective and incompetent. There would be a very noticeable scarcity of lawyers and "gentlemen," but there would be an abundance of men and women with a training in business methods and a knowledge of the problem with which they were confronted.

Conscious of its object, such a Parliament would recognise that to be effective its work must be in the nature of prevention as well as cure. It is, of course, necessary to cure the poverty which now exists, but it is even more necessary to prevent any further poverty arising. Even without dealing with the misery and poverty at present in existence, if we could only prevent any more happening the problem would solve itself in the course of a generation. The main cause of poverty is that some who do not work have an abundance—that naturally means that those who do work—or who are willing to work and cannot obtain it—are compelled to go short. Putting that main reason, however, for the moment on one side, we come to the secondary causes of poverty, which are agreed on by men of varying schools of thought. They are: unemployment, insufficient wages, ill-health, drink and other moral weaknesses.

Unemployment and its fellow evil, underemployment, are necessities in a society where the means of life are under private control. Were everything under public control, it would be quite a simple matter to set on those of the unemployed who are competent to produce the various commodities they are capable of—or if there were no demand then the hours of labour of those in work might be reduced to absorb the surplus and thus the conditions of all be made easier. As our industrial process is *not, however*, under public control, one has to adopt other methods.

The first suggestion is that the school age be raised from 14 to 15; while from 15 to 18 the boy—or girl—be only allowed to work 30 hours a week at an ordinary industrial occupation, but at the same time *be compelled* to put in another 30 hours a week at special schools providing both *physical* and technical education.

That would at one sweep abolish the casual labourer, the man or woman without a trade—always the first to swell the ranks of the destitute—while at the same time providing employment for a large number of adults at present out of work. Juvenile labour is only used on account of its cheapness, and in many trades there is no pretence of teaching children anything. Immediately they get old enough to want more money they are dismissed, and others put in their places. This blind alley sort of employment is the cause of much of our casual labour.

Female Labour.

Another cause of unemployment among men, and always of low wages, is the competition of female labour. It may not, perhaps, be advisable to stop *all* female labour in factories, but it certainly *is* advisable to stop the employment of *all married women with families*. As, however, the married woman does not usually go out to work unless compelled by poverty, it would be wicked to prohibit her doing so unless she were in some way compensated. Where, therefore, the husband's earnings are not enough to support the family in comfort, *an adequate grant should be made to the mother to enable her to stay at home and look after the children*. There is no defence of this proposition needed—*the children are the nation's greatest asset*, and anything that makes for their welfare is worth paying a high price for; while the removal of some thousands of badly paid labourers from the industrial market would mean the raising of wages and the finding of employment for thousands of others.

A third suggestion is to make universal the 48-hour week already obtaining in certain industries. The average at present worked on the various railway and tram services is nearer 70 than 48. The application of the shorter week to these services alone would mean work for many thousands of men at present unemployed, while it is thought by some that its universal application would of itself absorb all our surplus unemployed.

An Unemployment Reserve.

Another plan for the prevention of unemployment is the making by the Government—in conjunction with the municipalities—of a ten years' programme of public works and earmarking a portion of it—say, four millions a year—as a special unemployment emergency reserve. There would thus be a total of forty million pounds' worth of public work available when required. There is a certain index figure of unemployment. When that figure was below the normal the special reserve would remain untouched; when it got above the normal *the reserve would be put in hand—even to the extent of ten or twelve millions a year*. The Admiralty would lay down one or two extra ships, the education authority would build extra schools, and so on.

These measures would—while not, perhaps, abolishing all unemployment—do much to prevent it, and the poverty which is its invariable accompaniment. How to deal with the destitution arising from causes other than unemployment I shall show in the next article.

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—*See page 513.*

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OPEN LETTERS, POSTCARDS AND TELEGRAMS.

To the Rt. Hon. John Burns, President of the Local Government Board.

Dear President,—Have you yet received an application from the Croydon Council for permission to build a subway under Norwood Junction Station? If so, I hope you will withhold your consent. Croydon rates are already far too high, and many of the inhabitants have recently been guests of His Majesty through their inability to pay them. If you do not believe me, ask your brother.

John Bull.

To Sir Samuel Chisholm, Bart., Glasgow.

Dear Sir Sam,—With very great regret I learn from your remarks at the annual meeting of the National Vigilance Association that the condition of Glascae is simply awfu'. For a long time I permitted myself the belief that your city offered the example of a spiritual life so exalted that no other place, even in Scotland, could attain unto it. Alas for a' of us, if what you say is true, my dear Sir Sam. So terrible is the condition of things discovered by the Vigilance Association that you dare not mention the real state of the case in public, and the committee dare not mention it in print—especially in regard to "young girls."

The revelation is hideous, Sir Sam, but hardly more hideous than the atmosphere of canting, hypocritical otherworldliness in which it flourishes. Glasgow is Glasgow; and I doubt whether it is likely to be any better for your Vigilance Society. There must be something utterly rotten in the moral status of a city which preaches so much and practises so little; and if I am to credit what you and your colleagues say, and what your tongue will not permit you to say, I must believe that even its vice is so shameless and so outrageous that it not only assails the innocence of its children, but befouls it with physical corruption. Why not call Glasgow Scotland's whited sepulchre and have done with it, Sir Sam? Or trust to the effect of the new Scottish Temperance Bill?

John Bull.

To the Chief of Police, Aberdeen.

My Dear Chief Constable,—Apparently you are unconscious of the ridicule which is brought upon the police of Aberdeen by such absurd prosecutions as that of Jane Park. If you authorise them, then I think the Watch Committee should stop the foolery; if the Watch Committee authorise them and encourage them, you may tell them with my compliments that I think they would be much better employed in setting the police to solve the mysteries of the Upper Kirkgate jewel robbery, the vanishing solicitor, and the Guestron child outrage; or if these are too intricate and subtle for their talents, to try the force one after another in the regulation of the traffic at Market Street and Union Street. Instruct them that a policeman standing at a street corner waving his hands is not necessarily directing traffic; he may be afflicted with spasms.

But about this stupid complaint of Police-Constable Whyte, Mr. Chief. Making inquiries in a certain police affair, Jane Park and a thirteen-year-old boy assembled. On his telling them to gang awa', Jane told him to "take a bowl of brose," whereupon he summoned her for using obscene and abusive language. Of course, there may be some subtle *double entendre* about brose for aught my Saxon innocence tells me. I have always understood that it is a Scottish dish made by pouring boiling water on oatmeal; and whether Scotland drinks it or washes windows with it is no concern of mine. But how was the majesty of Police-Constable Whyte assailed? How does the suggestion become "abusive and obscene"? Do let me again impress upon you and upon the Watch Committee to occupy the time and attention of P.C. Whyte and his colleagues with affairs of more serious import to the city.

John Bull.

John Black and Co., Coal Merchants, London.

Despite cessation strike, notice you by no means bring down prices fast as you put 'em up. What lovely time you must have had this year.

Bull.

To Frederick Mead, Esq., Great Marlborough Street Police Court, London, W.

Dear Mr. Stipendiary,—I was glad to notice your strong protest against the procedure of Inspector Fowler in going behind the back of the Court and cross-examining a prisoner who had given evidence in his own defence. You very properly reminded the Inspector that he is not in France, and that such police methods won't do here. I have from time to time noticed an increasing tendency on the part of a certain class of police officers, anxious to gain a reputation for smartness, to resort to un-British methods. Zeal cannot excuse them; even the best of intentions cannot justify them; the explanation of the Inspector suffices to condemn them. British justice must be ever on its guard, Mr. Mead, unless, indeed, it intends to introduce the foreign principle of claiming the conviction of every prisoner who does not prove himself innocent—and I thank you for your timely protest.

John Bull.

To Messrs. E. Parsons and A. J. Saise, Justices of the Peace, Bristol.

Please Your Worships,—I trust you enjoyed your Easter Monday's holiday. What a wild and woolly time you had! First upon the scene of justice came an old man of 93, who had tramped from London to Bristol, or said he had. Unfortunately, a policeman saw him while he was of unstable equilibrium through excessive absorption of unteetotal refreshment. I daresay that you remembered that it was bank holiday, so you sent him to recuperate for a week at the workhouse. The next candidates for the judgment of the law were Messrs. George Edwin Hayers and Albert Coles, the evidence against whom was that they were drunk in a donkey cart; at least, that was part of it as to one of them. As against Hayers specifically it was also proved that while driving the donkey he continally beat the poor beast with a steel-spring whip "as hard as he could," the donkey, a willing and bright little animal, "cringing with pain." The inspector who examined it found ten punctured wounds on its back, from which blood was flowing, and there were numerous weals on its ribs on both sides, "the wounds being caused by the steel of the whip coming through the casing at the point, and it dug in every time a blow was administered." As you, Mr. Parsons, succinctly and truthfully remarked, it was a bad case. Without stretching the point you might even have said it was a very bad case. But the day was a holiday, and men must amuse themselves at holiday times. Instead, therefore, of sending Mr. Hayers to gaol for, say, 21 days' hard labour, your worships were kind enough to let him off with 40s. and costs.

Mr. Hayers disposed of so charmingly in the interests of humanity, Mr. Albert Thorne, Mr. Matthew Dealey and Mr. Robert Wild were required to explain why, after suspiciously wandering near a fowlhouse, they entered therein, stole five fowls, cut off four of their heads, and wrung the neck of the other. Your worships will recall that these enterprising gentlemen pleaded guilty. Heart again asserted itself, and you said that if they would promise to come up for judgment if called upon it would be all right. I am not informed whether you gave them the birds. How are things in general going in Bristol?

John Bull.

To the Committee of the Caister Branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

Captious Committee,—I hear with disgust and amazement that you have called upon Hero John Haylett—a grandson of the late "Jimmy" Haylett, who was decorated by our late King Edward, and who has himself earned several medals for heroic conduct—to resign his position as coxswain to the Caister lifeboat, on the ground that he has become the landlord of a village inn.

I am also informed that your action has been officially endorsed by the Central Committee of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, for the reason that when money is coming to a lifeboat's crew it is paid through the coxswain, and that "it is not considered desirable that the men should be paid in public-houses"! It is terrible to think that the work of saving life at sea should be handicapped in this manner. I hope you will soon be removed from the position of authority which you have so signally discredited.

John Bull.

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—*See page 513.*

DADDY BULL AND HIS DAUGHTER.

JOHN BULL: "Now, Erin, my dear, you're always worrying me to set you up in a House of your own. Well, I'm going to do it. You've been an expensive and rather troublesome little girl, but still I want to be Liberal to you. I shall start you with an annual allowance of £500,000, diminishing gradually to £200,000. Now be as economical as you can, and see how soon you can pay your own way."

ERIN: "There, Daddy, you're a darlin', an' I'll be an angel, acushla, so I will!"

JOHN BULL IN THE CITY.

By Verax.

A buoyant tone prevails in the Stock Markets, and operators, many of whom have made large profits, are abandoning their long-standing reserve and are taking an active part in the business of the day. Some have made little fortunes in *Marconis*, *General Omnibus* and *Underground Rails*. Others are benefiting largely by having taken my advice in *Oil, Tin and Copper shares*. There are indications of a revival in *Nigerians*, owing to the fresh rise in *Anglo-Continental* to over 6¼, and among the cheap stocks, *Toros* at 8s. 3d. are being picked up as highly promising. South Africans are moving, and amongst *Rhodesians* the sharp advances in *Falcons*, *Cams*, *Motor* and *Lonely Reefs* show which way the wind is blowing. By the way, *Diamond Proprietary Mines* have advanced to 5s., and should rise to a much higher level on the announcement, daily expected, of the proclamation of their farm. *Yankees* are fluctuating under the influence of the political uncertainty, but *Home Rails* are being bought by investors and are likely to advance further. Trade, too, is reviving, and we are evidently entering upon a remarkably active period, and one offering exceptional opportunities for profitable investment.

Oil Shares Active and Advancing—Shell Transports Buoyant—Demand for Egyptian, Grosny, and Standard of Mexico Shares—Important Maikop News.

The anticipation which I have repeatedly expressed that the Oil share market would become one of the most important in London and that the oil industry had the greatest possible future, is now in process of being confirmed. The coal strike undoubtedly has contributed to the acceleration of the movement in oils, and now we have in addition to the demand for power for shipping, and for industrial undertakings, a strong movement amongst the English railways in favour of the adoption of oil as fuel, following the example already set by a number of American, Canadian and South European companies. In fact, it is now only the question of obtaining sufficient supply, but oilfields are being opened up in all parts of the world, and the supply is daily increasing. The fact alone, which is current report, that the Shell-Royal Dutch combination are negotiating for a huge contract with the British Admiralty, shows what can be done, and it is understood that this group, and possibly several others, would be prepared to supply the English railway with large quantities. No wonder that *Shell Transports* advanced to 5¾. Other shares which have been strongly in demand were *Ural Caspian* at 2⅜, *Egyptian Oil Trust* at 4⅞, and *Red Sea Oilfields* at 1½. There is also better news from the Maikop Oilfield. The Maikop Victory output for the week ended April 6th has increased to 1,003 tons, that of the Black Sea Oilfields to 1,697 tons, and these shares are now quoted at ⅛ prem. and at 1⅛ respectively. *Maikop Premier* have improved to 8s. 6d., on a cable that the new well on Plot 488 is being supplied with a derrick and a steam engine. *Kuban Black Sea Oilfields* are also firming up at 3-32 prem. A good deal of attention is being devoted to the Grosny Oil Company, which owns seven plots of oil-bearing land on the Grosny Oilfields, directly adjoining those worked by the Spies Petroleum Company, which is now paying 20 per cent. dividend, and whose 10s. shares have risen to 29s. 6d. Boring contracts are being placed, and actual work will commence immediately within 100 ft. of the celebrated Spies "gusher," which produced 1,500,000 poods of oil within a few months in 1910. The spot selected is also on the same anticline, and within 100 yards of the MacGarvey "gusher" on the adjoining claim, from which 3½ million poods were obtained in a fortnight. The capital of the Grosny is £120,000 in £1 shares, and the present quotation is only 1⅛, while the market capitalisation of the Spies is already £2,137,000.

The latest cable from the *Maikop Victory* is to the effect that in well No. 5 another oil horizon has been struck at 1,480 feet, and that indications are so favourable that Mr. George Tweedy has practically decided to exploit this source. Coming after previous cables, according to which two oil horizons had been struck at 880 feet and 1,200 feet depth, while the *Maikop Victory's* present production is from the oil horizon at 600 feet, this is a most important discovery, not only for the *Maikop Victory*, but also for the Maikop field generally. *Standard Oil shares of Mexico*, to which I drew attention when at a much lower price, have now risen to 6s. 3d. for the "A" shares, while the "B" are quoted ¼. The rise appears to be due to large purchases from Mexico, the people on the spot being evidently quite certain that oil will be struck in large quantities. As a matter of fact, the possibility of a serious oil flow is occupying the attention of the Mexican Government, and as the striking of a similar gusher to that of the *Mexican Eagle* will probably result in a good deal of local disturbances owing to damage to land and pollution of water, the *Mexican Eagle* have given the assistance of their engineer, and also lent the company all the necessary pipes, valve gauges, etc., so that the anticipated gusher can be kept under control. We may, therefore, receive the news of another Mexican gusher at any time within the next fortnight or three weeks. The depth of the bore is about 2,000 feet, and the diameter at the bottom 8 inches, which would allow for big production. The capital of the company is £33,000, in 300,000 "A" shares of 2s. each, and 60,000 "B" shares of 1s. each, of which, according to the last balance sheet, 247,350 "A" shares have been issued, while all the "B" shares have been taken up. The profits are equally divisible between the "A" and "B" shares. The position at the present time is that the Mexican Government stopped the deeper boring of the wells until the reservoirs had been created and valves fitted. This embargo has now been removed, and boring operations are proceeding actively, although it is not expected that any definite results will be known until the end of the month.

Trinidad Oilfields to the Front—Trinidad United Oilfields in Demand.

A demand is springing up for several of the Trinidad Oilfields, amongst which Trinidad Oils have advanced to 1⅛ per £1 shares, while Trinidad United are quoted about ⅝, and that company is more particularly deserving the attention of investors. It has a licence over an area of 640 acres, very favourably situated with regard to transport facilities, being within easy reach of the coast, and connected by good roads with other parts of the island. Two producing wells have been sunk, No. 1 at the shallow depth of 100 ft., and No. 2 at 298 ft.; the wells yielded, when pumped, about ten barrels of oil per day each. Well No. 3 is down a depth of 825 ft., and it is expected that oil will be reached on further boring for a couple of hundred feet. A large reservoir, capable of holding 42,000 gallons of oil, has been constructed, and at one time contained 3,500 gallons of oil obtained by pumping wells No. 1 and 2. The property affords special facilities for working the Rio Blanca oil-bearing group. Four more wells have been located by Mr. Cunningham-Craig. As already stated, No. 3 will have to be drilled deeper, and No. 4 must be drilled to at least 800 ft. The same expert considers that the position of the Trinidad Oilfields with regard to roads and the sea makes it compare so favourably with many of the oil properties now being developed in Trinidad as to be almost unique. On examining the sample of the oil analysed by Mr. G. T. Holloway, consulting chemist, the following products were obtained by redistillation:—Percentage: Petrol 3.7, petroleum naphtha 5.0, illuminating oil 17.0, fuel oil 64.0 per cent. (loss 10.3). Further options have been obtained upon two additional areas which are adjacent to the property already owned by the company, consisting respectively of 1,333 and 1,506 acres. The nominal capital of the Trinidad United Oilfields is £250,000, in 250,000 ordinary shares of £1 each, of which 164,000 are issued, and as the present price is moderate, this is an advantageous proposition. That Trinidad should and will become very important from the point of view of the supply of oil for fuel to the numerous steamers which will doubtless call in there to replenish their supply, especially after the Panama Canal has been opened, cannot be doubted. It should also commend itself to the British Admiralty as a most convenient port of call, or oil station, for the purposes of oil fuel.

Arizona-Morenci Copper.

The president of the *Arizona-Morenci Copper Company*, Mr. Stephen W. Dorsey, has now made a report on the properties owned by the company, on his return from America, which in every way confirms the favourable view which I expressed of the company a few weeks ago. During his stay in America he has been able to add materially to the strength of the executive by the election of several well-known copper experts to the board of directors. Mr. Dorsey enumerates the various properties owned by the company, all of which have practically been proved to contain rich copper ore, the average of which he thinks would be similar to that of the adjoining *Arizona* and *Phelps Dodge Companies*—viz., 36 to 38 lbs. of copper to the ton, which compares with 25 to 26 lbs. per ton of other leading large producing companies, such as the *Nevada*, the *Miami*, and the

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—See page 513.

Ray Consolidated. The facts which he has ascertained lead him to make the important pronouncement that the *Arizona-Morenci Copper Company* stands in a most important and unique position, for, so far as he knows, it is the only non-producing company owning large areas of ground already proved to be copper-bearing, and in the centre of a known area of copper-bearing lands, and there is no doubt in his mind that, with adequate development, the properties will become quite as valuable as any of the adjoining mines. *Arizona-Morenci 7 per cent. Participating Preference* shares of 5 dollars each (£1) fully paid, are still obtainable at 6s. 6d. to 7s. and are very cheap at that.

ARGENTINE RAILWAY DIVIDEND SEASON—GOOD INVESTMENT HOLDINGS.

The Argentine Railway dividend season is now in full swing, and so far the distributions have been maintained at the same rates as a year ago. The *Entre Rios* stands in an exceptional position, and my readers will remember that I drew special attention to the merits of this stock when the quotation was about 70, as compared with the present quotation of 82. The directors' report for the past half-year shows excellent progress, the gross receipts having increased by £43,245, while working expenses were £23,090, leaving a net gain of £20,155. Thus, the company is able to pay an interim dividend on the second preference, as well as on the first preference stock, as compared with the distribution on the latter only, a year ago. The outlook for the current half-year is very bright, big wheat, linseed, and maize crops being expected, so that there is every prospect that when the accounts for the year ended June 30th next are made up, they will permit of a greater distribution on the ordinary stock than the 1½ per cent. forthcoming for 1910-11. As regards Argentine Rails generally, traffics are only just beginning to recover from the effects of the recent strike, but the crop news is so satisfactory that these stocks still form good holdings for investment, as will be gathered from the following comparative table:—

	Div. p.c.	High. 1911.	Buy. Qtns.	Yield p.c.	per an. £ s. d.
B. A. Pacific	3½	101	98½	3	11 0
B. A. Great Southern ..	7	126	124½	5	13 9
B. A. Western	7½	135	129	5	16 9
Central Argentine	6	111	107	5	12 6

The above stocks are the pick of the bunch, while the *Entre Rios* position has already been dealt with. The *Buenos Ayres Great Southern* interim dividend has just been announced at the unchanged rate of 6 per cent. per annum. From the figures given, gross receipts increased by £25,600, while £13,000 extra was brought into the accounts, but £38,000 less is carried forward, at £101,200. The continued growth in prior charges accounts for the latter circumstance. Considerable interest attaches to the position of the *Central Argentine*, which stands to benefit most from the expected bumper maize crop of 7½ million tons. The *Buenos Ayres Western* is also in a very strong position. As regards the *Buenos Ayres and Pacific*, it is stated that the wheat crop in the district served by the Bahia Blanca and North Western Line will give a greatly increased traffic as compared with the previous year, and will more than make up for any loss in the wheat traffic on the Buenos Ayres and Pacific section, where unfavourable climatic conditions prevailed at the time the wheat and linseed crops were ripening. Moreover, latest cables as regards the maize crops are of a very encouraging character. The "dark horse" of the group is *Argentine North-Eastern*, which at 55 are 12 points above the lowest point of last year, although no dividend was paid for 1910-11. All the indications, however, point to a distribution being forthcoming for the current year, and in some quarters it is believed that *Argentine North-Eastern* will follow *Entre Rios* in their upward career.

"NORTHERN TERRORS."

Latest clean up from Carter's Pine Creek mine: 847 tons for 1,928 ounces of gold—another evidence of the phenomenal mineral wealth of the Territory. An important circular is about to be issued to members of the Northern Territory Syndicate.

P.S.—I have just been given some important information concerning *Gold Coast Consolidated Land Company's* shares. It is too late this week to give full details, but next week I hope to write fully concerning them. In the meantime, my advice is to buy. The shares are being dealt in on the London Stock Exchange at about 3s. for the fully paid 5s. share for special settlement, which has already been applied for.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL LETTER-BOX.

(1) *Letters containing inquiries must be addressed to the City Editor,* JOHN BULL, *2, Copthall Buildings, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.*

(2) *Correspondents should adopt either a nom-de-plume, or mention initials, under which the replies will appear in the paper. The stocks or subjects inquired about should also be numbered.*

(3) *Replies are made only in the ordinary way through the columns of this journal under the above heading, and not by letter.*

(4) *In no circumstances will the proprietors undertake the sale or purchase of stocks or shares.*

(5) *If inquirers wish it, the names and addresses of respectable firms of stockbrokers, members of the London Stock Exchange, will be supplied to them, in which case a stamped addressed envelope must be enclosed.*

(6) A Postal Order for 1/- must accompany each Financial or Insurance Inquiry.

SYNDICATE.—ENQUIRER (Midlothian).—This is, of course, a mining venture, and not the kind of safe investment like Government stocks, but it is promising. If you have bonds, you had better write to the Secretary of the Syndicate about the interest. STACK.—Same reply. As soon as there is anything to report, you will no doubt receive information.

PREMIUM BONDS.—J. F. (Edinburgh).—I do not advise dealing with these people, but the question is whether you have already given them the order or not. If you have not, I can recommend you a far more suitable channel.

OUTSIDE BROKERS.—H. B. L.—I regret to learn that you cannot obtain a reply from Barclay, Power and Co., of, 5, Featherstone Buildings, W.C., concerning 25 Canadian Pacifics which you bought of them. Your letter was returned as they have left, and I think it would be very difficult to find their address. It is no use to write to the Canadian Pacific Company. You must tell me what you have paid to these people, and whether you have got any documents in hand.

NORTHERN NIGERIAN MINING AND EXPLORATION COMPANY.—M. A. B.—This is a substantial Company, which has paid good dividends, but you have evidently bought at too high a price, as you got in at £2. The price is now 1 3-16. You had better hold, as when the Nigerian market braces up again matters will improve.

VARIETY CINEMATOGRAPH ENTERTAINMENT, LIMITED.—MERCIA.—As the Company has not carried out the objects for which it was formed, you have a perfect right to demand your money back. Have you subscribed on a prospectus? If you cannot obtain a reply, you had better place the matter in the hands of a solicitor at once.

MIDDLE-AGE PENSIONS.—HEM KAY.—Have nothing to do with the National Old Age Pension Trust—I do not believe in its "solution" of the problem of middle-age pensions. I think you had better leave well alone, especially as old age pensions are already granted by the Government.

LOVIBOND PREFS.—NO RESTRICTIONS, N.Z.—£800 is too much to put into one particular share of this class. The yield of 10½ per cent. per annum looks promising, but indicates the highly speculative character of the shares. Better spread the amount to include some of the better-class Debentures, such as Northampton 5 per cent. Debentures at 83; Lion B 4 per cent. Debentures at 74; and Newcastle A 4 per cent. Debentures at 65. (2) Home Rails, if only labour conditions permit.

DORMANT SOUTH AFRICANS.—J. G.—(1) This concern went into liquidation in June, 1908, and is no longer in existence. (2) Merged into the Vaal River Goldfields, to whom you should apply as regards your position. The Secretary is Mr. C. J. Avery, 52, New Broad Street, London, E.C. (3) No longer in existence. (4) These shares are worth keeping for an improvement.

TIN SHARES—VINDEX.—A low-priced tin share, which is a pure gamble. The position must obviously depend upon the course of the tin market generally. They are not very strongly held, and I would not care to have many of them.

INSURANCE REPLIES.

PEARL.—J. M.—No. It would not be legal. If you must assure the lives of your father and mother, you must do so with their knowledge, and with their signatures on the proposal.

EQUITABLE LIFE ASSURANCE OF THE U.S.A.—YES. A wealthy and well-conducted American Life Office.

THIRD NEW POLICY.—D. C. (Fife) and ATHERTONE.—You cannot play fast and loose with a Company in this way. Having allowed the second policy also to lapse and again fallen behind, you will have to pay the arrears, or else lose your money.

FOUR POLICIES.—ANXIOUS (Hornsey).—If you took out these policies without the knowledge of your wife's father and mother, and the agent knew all about it, you should be able to recover the premiums.

INSURANCE HAND-BOOK.—A. J. C.—"The Life Assurance Agents' *Vade Mecum*," published by James Wilkie, 26, Gayfield Square, Edinburgh, price 1s., would give you this information in a handy form.

LONDON AND MANCHESTER INDUSTRIAL.—T. G. (Catford).—The policies do not appear to be legal, as your aunt did not sign the proposal, but she knows apparently about it. Having, however, stopped the payment in July, 1910, you will have great difficulty in getting anything back. The policies are returned.

LIVERPOOL VICTORIA.—E. B. (Cardiff).—You do not say whether the agent alone was responsible for all the misstatements, but as the assured has died you will have to be content with the payment of the sum insured.

PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY.—J. R. (Leith).—The premiums are recoverable at law. S. A. S. (Balrury).—Sue the Company. They boast that they never refuse to pay a claim on such grounds. R. W. (Hurstmoneux).—If you could prove fraud, you would win. F. E. (Bath).—I think you could successfully sue. J. J. H. (Landport).—Without further particulars I cannot advise. F. G. B. (West Kilburn).—I think the policy would be held to be valid. W. T. (Eastry).—The juvenile policy is good; the others are also good if the assured signed the proposal forms—if not they are bad. Your enclosures are returned. E. P. (Shepherd's Bush).—If the assured did not sign, you can recover premiums.

It is requested that all letters sent us relating to the validity of policies held in the Prudential be marked on the envelope "Prudential." Owing to the thousands of inquiries which have been received, some little delay in dealing with them is unavoidable, but every endeavour is being made to expedite matters.

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—*See page 513.*

DEFEATED CANDIDATES' "EXPLANATIONS."

"TELLING THE TALE."

[*Being an Interview with Sir Demos Plutocrat on "Why I Lost."*]

After the declaration of the poll, Sir Demos Plutocrat was questioned by our representative as to what he attributed his defeat.

"Undoubtedly," he said, "the principal cause was the fact that my opponents, with astounding audacity, told the electors that their policy was the right one and that mine was the wrong. But for this unscrupulous action they would never have won. Not once, in the whole course of the campaign, did they advocate my claims. On the contrary, they acted throughout on the most self-interested motives, and persistently fought for their own cause.

"However," added Sir Demos, "I do not envy them a victory won by such mean and selfish methods. Political opportunism of this sort is always found out, and I have no doubt that when the electors realise by what sordid means their support was gained, they will revenge themselves, and myself, at the first opportunity."

* * * * *

Extract from leading article in "The Daily Excuse":—

"... Of course, our opponents will profess to be greatly elated at the result and to regard it as a blow to the Government. But the briefest examination of the main cause that contributed to the defeat of the Libervative candidate will show how ill-founded are their rejoicings, and what little political significance attaches to the event, deeply disappointing as it is to the champions of Progressive-Backwardness. Those who, like ourselves, can look beneath the surface and see the real inwardness of things, know that the policy of the Government had nothing to do with the result of the election. It is only necessary to remember the climatic conditions under which polling took place to appreciate what was the deciding factor. The day was one of sombre skies and ceaseless rain. This clouded all other issues—we do not use the word "clouded" with any vulgar, punning intention, for the matter is not one for levity. Obviously, what happened was that the electors, baulked of the spring sunshine they legitimately expected, vented their disgust in the one way open to them. They could not hit the Clerk of the Weather, owing to that individual's position of absolute autocracy, to drag him from which must henceforth be one of the chief aims of the party of Progressive-Backwardness. Blind and futile as was their action, there was no one at whom they could strike but the Government of the day. Human nature is not to be disregarded, and whilst we regret the temporary effect of this course, we see in it nothing that can give real satisfaction to our opponents."

* * * * *

Overheard in the office of Sir Demos Plutocrat's election agent:—

Confidential Friend: Well, what was the real reason our man didn't get in?

Election Agent: Quite simple, old chap. The other man got more votes!

ANOTHER FEE-SNATCHING FIRM.

A BATTERSEA UNLICENSED EMPLOYMENT AGENCY.

The following advertisement appeared in the *Blackpool Times* of April 6th:—

> Lady required shortly, at Blackpool, as daily companion to invalid lady; bright, cheerful disposition essential; references required; good salary.—Write fully, enclosing stamped envelope, to B. L., care of Hurst and Bedford, 117, Culvert Road, Battersea Park, London, S.W.

One of our readers who applied for the post received the usual shark's letter—"if you will send us a postal order for 2s. 6d.," etc., introductory to a statement that this sum is asked for "only as a matter of good faith, and would be returned if enquiries proved unsatisfactory." We need only add that Hurst and Bedford are not registered as employment agents, and that Culvert Road is in the slum quarter of Battersea.

IN THE BARBER'S CHAIR.

[*Being Conversations in a West End Barber's Shop, Overheard by our Reporter.*]

The Rt. Hon. Alexander Ure, K.C.

You're next, sir. . . . Shave, sir? . . . Shave yourself as a rule, sir? . . . Yessir. . . . Yessir, we always spots a stranger, sir. . . . Can't 'elp remembrin' a face, sir, w'en you've once shaved it, sir. . . . Gits fixed on your mind, like. Can't forgit it . . . sometimes you wish you could, sir.

Sorry, sir . . . didn't know you wos goin' to open your mouth. . . . But this soap don't taste so bad as some do.

Fancy enythink for the Derby, sir? I thort of 'avin' a couple o' bob on 'All Cross, meself. . . . Don't do no racin', sir? Glad to 'ear it. It's a bad 'abit. . . . Leads you on, like. But it's a bit temptin', these times, to make a bit on the orf chance. Money's so tight. Wot with the Land Taxes—— Sorry, sir. . . . It's only a little scratch. Didn't know you wos goin' to move so sudden.

Do you shave up, sir? . . . Right, sir. Razor comferble, sir? . . . 'Ave you 'eard the latest yarn wots goin' the rounds, sir? . . . 'Bout some political nob—a Cabinik Minister, I fancies. . . . No, sir? . . . Now, *wot* wos 'is name? . . . I've got it on the tip of me tongue, too. . . . Oh, I know—Ure, that's it. . . . You know, sir, the bloke wot told the tale about the Land Taxes and the Old Age Pensions—sed if they didn't 'ave one they couldn't 'ave the other . . . 'ad nearly all 'is meetin's broke up, 'e did; an' 'ad to explain 'imself in the 'Ouse—Ure-a-liarty, they called 'im. (!—?—**!) Sorry, sir . . . that wos just a shavin' orf your ear, I'm afraid. . . . But you *are* a one-er to jump, sir.

Well, I wos agoin' to tell you, sir. This 'ere Ure 'ad a hinvitatshun to a fancy dress ball the other day. Not 'avin' any fancy clobber, 'e goes in 'is Privy Council duds. The King gits to 'ear of it, an' kicks up a proper row. Sed 'e wosn't agoin' to 'ave the uniform of 'is Privy Council made a larfin' stock, not at enny price. So 'e 'as a notice published in the *Court Gazette*—not menshunin' the name of the chap wot did it, minjer—'e's too much of a gent fer that, is George. But heverybody know 'oo 'e meant, an' pore old Ure, I'm told, 'ad a rough time for a few days.

'Ot or cold, sir? . . . Spray, sir? . . . Yessir. . . . *and* a little powder, sir? 'Ow about a 'air cut, or a shampoo, sir. Very good, sir.

Mean blighter! . . . 'Ere, Bill, 'oo's that bloke wot I've just 'ad? . . . Wot? Garn! . . . 'Oo? Ure? . . . . You're another. . . . Wot, straight? . . . Well, I'm glad I cut 'is bloomin' ear, that's all. Didn't give me a blinkin' cent.

"A PAROCHIAL POTENTATE'S PONY."

Up to the time of going to press, no reply has been received from the Master of St. Pancras Workhouse to our exposure of April 6th. We can only presume that he has no answer to make. Now a word with the Guardians. On wet days and Sundays, when old inmates of the workhouse are not out on leave, there are a great number of them who cannot find a seat in the day-room, and have in consequence to stand or walk about till one or other leaves the place, and then there is a scramble. Some few years ago, however, a well-fitted-up greenhouse was built for the doctor; and we suggest that the workhouse master's stable and the doctor's greenhouse should be razed to the ground, and additional accommodation for the inmates built in their stead.

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—*See page 513.*

A SURGERY IN YOUR HOME

New Method of Clean, Rapid Healing.

THE lacerated cut or the nasty ulcer which once you would have had to see your doctor about, can now, thanks to the invention of Zam-Buk, be treated safely and successfully in your own home. It was the discovery of the famous antiseptic process, and its introduction into the home by Zam-Buk, that opened up new possibilities in self-treatment.

Careful research was being conducted into the medicinal properties of certain famous herbs and it was found that one of them exerted an extraordinary destructive effect on the microbes infesting a wound.

A certain combination of healing extracts was eventually found which not only destroys the harmful germ-life, but effectively draws out all bad matter and corruption, and having thus purified the tissues ensures a clean and rapid healing. Thus at length the greatest antiseptic healer the world has ever seen was given to the public under the name Zam-Buk, and was instantly acclaimed for simplifying the treatment, and hastening the cure, of even obstinate attacks of eczema, ulcers, piles, ring-worm, and festering wounds.

Totally different in character from common ointments, Zam-Buk is also immeasurably superior to them in having a threefold action on the skin. First, it allays pain and irritation. Secondly, it kills harmful germs and thus removes all danger of a cut or sore taking "bad ways." Lastly, when the bad place has been thus purified, it grows a new layer of perfectly healthy skin.

The treatment is so simple and yet so effective that to have a box of Zam-Buk handy converts your home into an efficient, and ever-ready hospital.

Zam-Buk

Of all Chemists, 1/1½, 2/9 or 4/6.

SAMPLE BOX FREE

Cut out this coupon and send it with a penny stamp (simply to cover return postage) to the Zam-Buk Co., Leeds, for a trial sample of this unique healer and skin-cure.

JOHN BULL. April 18, 1912.

The Ideal Hat for Lounge and Holiday Wear

The "Aero" is a hat which should form part of the wardrobe of all men who value a combination of Comfort and Good Style. Primarily intended for Negligé Wear—it serves that purpose through and beyond.

. . For Evening Wear . . Garden Wear . . Golf . . Cycling . . Tennis . . Boating—for all but strictly formal occasions—this hat is ideal in every respect.

THE "AERO" FOLDING FELT

is the Lightest Hat of its kind in the whole world—
. . . weighing but 1¼ Ounces . . .

This shows one of the many forms to which the "Aero" Hat can be shaped.

. . Adaptability is a strong feature of the "Aero." Being extremely pliable, it can be shaped by the wearer to suit his face, his taste, or the occasion—the possible shapes being almost endless in variety.

. . . It is made of good quality felt, so soft and pliable that the hat can be folded and put into one's pocket. It is practically waterproof; heavy rain might penetrate it, but would not injure it. It is made in the following colours: Dark Green, Light Green, Brown, Fawn, Drab, Grey, Black, and White.

4/6 POST FREE IN U.K. . . . . ABROAD, 5/-

. . This hat can be obtained from any of our branches except the Gracechurch Street one, or Post Free from our Mail Order Dept., 388A, Strand. A Special Display is now being made at our Fleet Street Branch. In ordering by post please state the size of hat usually worn, and the Colour required. Remittance must accompany all orders, but the hat will be exchange (if not approved) or the money refunded. Please mention "John Bull" when ordering.

Horne BROTHERS

FOR ALL THAT IS GOOD & NEW IN MEN'S WEAR

Central Establishment & Mail Order Department,

388A, STRAND, LONDON, W. C.

and Branches Throughout London

BEWARE OF THE "PRUDENTIAL"!

MORE ABOUT THE METHODS OF THE PRUDENTIAL ASSURANCE COMPANY.

[*In a series of articles extending over the past twelve months we have exposed the methods—including fraud and forgery—by means of which much of the business of the Industrial branch of the Prudential Assurance Company has been obtained; and we have alleged, and proved, that the Company has connived at such methods. Up to the present no proceedings, civil or criminal, have been instituted against us.*]

ROBBING THE POOR.

"Is it not astounding," asks a correspondent, "that Government after Government takes no heed of the daylight robbery of the poor, but on the other hand looks on with placid approval and refers to such an institution as the Prudential as a monument of thrift—ignorant of, or indifferent to, the fact that *less than 10 per cent. of the policy holders obtains any benefit whatever, and that the balance of over 90 per cent. finds itself placed in the dead man's swamp of lapses and surrenders?*" We quite agree that Parliament should compel these Companies to make a full disclosure of their windfalls from these sources and tax them up to the hilt.

A GOOD EXAMPLE.

We are told that in the window of a house in New Street, Worthing, appears the following notice:

> I have paid into the Prudential Assurance Company £19 9s. 6d., and all I received out at my father's death was £9 11s. 4d. This for people to understand how I have been robbed. No Prudential Agents to call or knock at this door.

We suggest that other aggrieved policyholders should follow the example of our Worthing friend, for the benefit of their neighbours.

AN ANSWERED PRAYER.

Here is a striking letter:—

> Whether or not the Almighty has anything to do with the affairs of this world, the following is most remarkable. A Prudential Agent of many years' honest service some twelve months back quoted Scripture in making a speech concerning the Company's misdeeds. The Company promptly gave him seven days' notice to leave, and he left. Thousands of Agents at the time prayed or wished that an earthly power in some way or other would mysteriously appear and punish the Company. Surely enough, although these men, including the one dismissed, were quite unconscious of the event that was about to take place. JOHN BULL had No. 1 article in print about fourteen days later—March 25th, 1911. If this was not an act of the Higher Judge, it was certainly a righteous judgment on the Company. And equally remarkable is the amusing fact that the Company are barred from giving JOHN BULL seven days' notice, either to leave or to shut up.

THE CANADIAN "PRUDENTIAL."

We are informed that the Prudential Company referred to in our paragraph last week, under the heading of "A Canadian Item," is not the London one. So much the better.

POINTS FOR POLICY HOLDERS.

If you have a policy on the life of anyone other than yourself, and upon which you have been paying premiums, have it carefully examined; it is probably illegal.

If the proposal for the policy you hold was not really signed by the person in whose name it is made out, you can probably get back all you have paid.

If an Agent or Special Canvasser calls to "examine your policy," or to tell you about a "Bonus," and endeavours to induce you to change into some other form of insurance, don't listen to him. He is most likely trying to get the better of you. It is an old dodge of the Prudential.

In taking out any new insurances—AVOID THE PRUDENTIAL.

Why don't YOU get more money through the I.C.S.?

You know what a difference it would make if you did. All your circumstances persistently appeal to you to *get more money.*

From the day you enrol for the I.C.S. course in any branch of Modern Business, Advertising, Engineering, Window-dressing, or any other of the 180 I.C.S. courses—from that day you will get *training that will enable you to get more money.*

"The way to Better Pay is the I.C.S. way"—over 100,000 I.C.S. students affirm it is so.

This is from one who has *got* more:

"I have just obtained, through the aid of your local representative, a very good position with an increase of 10s. per week in salary."

B. W. CHANNING, E. Dulwich.

Mark and send the coupon to-day to get free information. Let us refer you to I.C.S. students in your district. This offer is *your opportunity.*

MORE MONEY Coupon

International Correspondence Schools, Ltd. Dept. 159 X International Bldgs., Kingsway, London

Please explain, without any obligation on my part, how I can qualify to enter, or obtain a larger salary in, the occupation or profession before which I have marked X (or in the one stated here

.....)

—Engineering (*state which*) —Architecture
—Motor —Aviation —Business Training
—Analytical Chemistry —Advertising
—Textile Manufacturing —Window-Dressing
—University & Professional Preliminary Exams. —Civil Service —Modern Languages

Over 160 other Courses.

Name.....

Address.....

SHAVALLO

(SHAVE-ALL-O).

THE IDEAL SHAVING SOAP.

THE LARGEST SALE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

Iverine Sticks, 1s. each, smaller sticks, 6d. each. and Cakes, 4½d. each.

BRITISH MADE AND THE BEST.

The only shaving soap that gives a comfortable shave with either hot or cold water.

Obtainable at all the leading Hairdressers, Chemists and Stores.

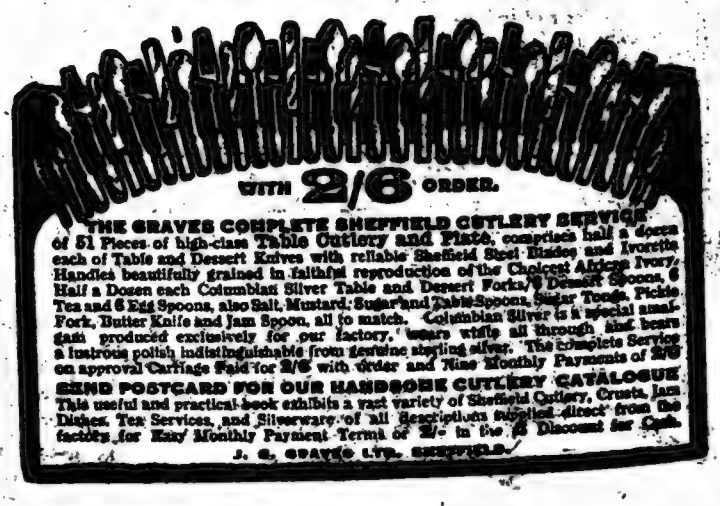
Sole Makers: **JOHN KNIGHT, Ltd.,**

Soapmakers to H.M. King George V.,

LONDON, E.

Send a penny stamp for free sample to Dept. "J.B."

"Awarded Grand Prix and Gold Medal, Brussels International Exhibition, 1910."


WITH 2/6 ORDER.
THE GRAVES COMPLETE SHEFFIELD CUTLERY SERVICE
of 51 Pieces of high-class Table Cutlery and Plate, comprises half a dozen each of Table and Dessert Knives with reliable Sheffield Steel Blades and Ivorette Handles beautifully grained in faithful reproduction of the Choicest African Ivory. Half a Dozen each Columbian Silver Table and Dessert Forks, 6 Dessert Spoons, 6 Tea and 6 Egg Spoons, also Salt, Mustard, Sugar and Table Spoons, Sugar Tongs, Pickle Fork, Butter Knife and Jam Spoon, all to match. Columbian Silver is a special amalgam produced exclusively for our factory, wears white all through and bears a lustrous polish indistinguishable from genuine sterling silver. The complete Service on approval Carriage Paid for 2/6 with order and Nine Monthly Payments of 2/6
SEND POSTCARD FOR OUR HANDSOME CUTLERY CATALOGUE
This useful and practical book exhibits a vast variety of Sheffield Cutlery, Cruets, Jam Dishes, Tea Services, and Silverware of all descriptions supplied direct from the factory for Easy Monthly Payment Terms of 2/- in the £ Discount for Cash.
J. G. GRAVES LTD. SHEFFIELD.

You may possess without immediate heavy expense a real home—cosy, comfortable, inviting—in a word, home-like. Why not have such a home?

Money cannot be better invested than in securing a truly artistic, cosy and comfortable home. You may not, however, wish to go to much expense in this direction. There is no need whatever to do so. By adopting the Wolfe and Hollander idea, you can purchase everything you need—a houseful of furniture if desired—without feeling compelled to disturb your savings or capital to any extent. You have the advantage of selecting from the finest selection of furniture that the best workers can produce and although you are not asked to pay cash in full, you have the unique benefit of selecting and ordering your goods at cash figures.

Everything at the Wolfe and Hollander showrooms is priced in plain figures for cash—if you wish to avail yourself of the extended payments plan, we simply charge the nominal rate of five per cent. additional

Under this system you know exactly (1) what the furniture costs you, and (2) what you are paying for the privilege of purchasing on the Wolfe and Hollander Extended Payments Plan. This is the clear business-like plan that has gained for the firm patrons in all parts of the world.

Whether you wish to pay cash or not is, therefore, of small moment The thing is to act The thing you should do first of all is

WRITE AT ONCE FOR THE FURNISHING BOOK OF THE YEAR.

Wolfe and Hollander's new Book on artistic home furnishing (illustrated in monochrome and colours) showing a full range of every possible style of furniture suitable for cottage, flat, villa or country mansion, will be sent free and post paid on application to

WOLFE & HOLLANDER, LTD.,

252-256, Tottenham Court Road, London, W.

Telephones: 1850 Gerrard, 14280 Central.
Telegrams: "Wolfhol, London."

ARTISTIC HOMES WITHOUT IMMEDIATE EXPENSE.

A Remarkable Plan which enables everyone throughout Great Britain to select Furniture at Cash Prices with the Benefit of Deferring Payments.

How to Furnish "Out of Income" for Greater Comfort.

Among the hundreds of thousands of readers of JOHN BULL, there are a great many who are longing to be able to change their home surroundings. They feel that the furniture bought years ago is ugly or commonplace or lacking in some respect.

Modern furniture—artistic in design and properly made—gives a peculiar satisfaction to its owner and exerts a powerful influence on the mood and well-being of those who live with it. Such home-lovers are strongly urged to write to Messrs. Wolfe and Hollander, Ltd., at their offices and showrooms, 252 to 256, Tottenham Court Road, W. (Oxford Street end), for particulars of their plan whereby new, modern, artistic furniture can be substituted for the old, cumbersome articles.

The form below renders this a very easy matter, as it is only necessary to fill in your name and address, cut out and post it in an unsealed envelope under halfpenny postage. It is but a moment's work, but may have very far-reaching effects on your future home happiness; so we ask you to send it now.

The important point to remember when you are purchasing furniture at Messrs. Wolfe and Hollander's store is the fact that every article selected is guaranteed to be of finest workmanship, the best of its kind produced. It will be readily understood that the huge business that this firm have built can only have accrued on the recommendation and satisfaction of past customers.

Wolfe and Hollander absolutely guarantee satisfaction whether you decide to purchase one single article costing a few shillings or decide to re-furnish the whole of your house.

They are equally prepared to supply residents in London as well as provincial readers, and cordially invite every reader of JOHN BULL—lady or gentleman—no matter where residing, to make application for the very handsome furniture album that they distribute freely.

Residents in or visitors to London are cordially invited to call and make a tour of inspection of the show-rooms, but should you be unable to call at once, send for the book. Study it in your leisure moments, and you will be able to realise that without heavy outlay, without expense at practically cash figures, you can make your dull house, flat or apartments bright and cheerful.

The Wolfe and Hollander plan does not place a fictitious value on the furniture because payment is not to be secured at once, but simply means that a small charge of 5 per cent. only is added. The Wolfe and Hollander plan has enabled thousands to obtain a pleasing and inviting home, furnished in really good style, without having to make a big outlay. It will certainly be the means of doing the same for you if you send for the book and wisely decide to select your furniture from this firm's unequalled stock.

To Messrs. WOLFE & HOLLANDER, Ltd.,
252-256, Tottenham Court Road, London, W

Please send me gratis and post free, a copy of your new furniture book, illustrated in monochrome and colours, and particulars of your system of furnishing out of income. My address is:—

.....
.....
.....

UNWITNESSED WILLS.

[This is a companion feature to our "Anticipated Epitaphs"—and is just as authentic.]

This is the Last Will and Testament

— OF ME —

EDWARD HENRY CARSON, of Rottingdean, in the County of Sussex, Knight.

I HEREBY REVOKE all former testamentary dispositions made by me.

FIRST, I take this opportunity to call down an Irish curse upon the heads of all the enemies of Ireland who would see her severed from Great Britain. May their potatoes be blighted, their pigs succumb to the measles, and their whiskey leak in the night. May the bogs swallow them up, and the Banshee howl about their ruined habitations for ever. Now it's better I feel.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH unto the custodian of the Tower of London the collection of weapons I made in preparation for Ulster's armed resistance against Home Rule.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH unto the Worshipful Company of Leathersellers the boots I intended to wear on the famous march from Belfast to Cork.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH unto Henry Brodribb Irvine, of Tavistock Square, London, actor, my Tragic Style both of deportment and declamation.

I GIVE, BEQUEATH, AND DEVISE unto my friend, Rudyard Kipling, of Burwash, in the county of Sussex, gent., my little place at Rottingdean, with all that messuage and the appurtenances belonging thereunto, as a slight return for the splendid work he did for the cause of the Union by publishing a poem on the subject of Home Rule.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH unto my friend James Craig, of Craigavon, County Down, Ireland, honorary captain, my blackthorn shillelagh, as a memento of the glorious fight which did not come off in Belfast when Winston Churchill made his spiritless Home Rule speech.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH unto Herbert Henry Asquith, of Whitehall, London, gent., a pair of Asbestos Socks for use in case he should after all be tempted to burn his feet among the embers of former Home Rule controversies.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH unto John Redmond, M.P., my opinion of him, which will be found in the sealed envelope attached to this my Will.

I GIVE AND BEQUEATH unto the Nationalist gang in the House of Commons six feet of well-greased hemp.

I GIVE, BEQUEATH, AND DEVISE unto my trustees the sum of five thousand pounds, the said moneys to be used at their discretion for the purpose of succouring such discharged prisoners as would have escaped conviction if I had been able to defend them, the which I was not able to do by reason of my time being taken up by the Home Rule controversy.

[Here follow private bequests.]

THE firm of W. and A. Fox, of Basle, have now been established some time as football accountants. Their rules are compiled in a most liberal spirit, and are eminently fair to both parties.

HOW TO STRENGTHEN THE LUNGS.

The following prescription from a noted doctor has caused considerable stir amongst Lung Specialists; it seems to get right at the bottom of a cough, giving instant relief, and often effects a complete cure in a remarkably quick time. It has a strong tonic effect, and gives renewed strength quickly to those who have become weak through prolonged illness.

It is easily made at home and costs but little. From your Chemist get 1 oz. of Parmint (Double Strength) and add to it a ½ pint of hot water and 4 oz. of granulated sugar; take one spoonful four times a day. Everyone knows the medicinal value of Pine in treating coughs and lung troubles. Parmint is especially effective, as it is a concentrated extract of the Norway White Pine; it is rich in guaiacol and all the natural healing pine elements. The prompt results from this inexpensive remedy have made friends for it in thousands of homes throughout England and Norway.

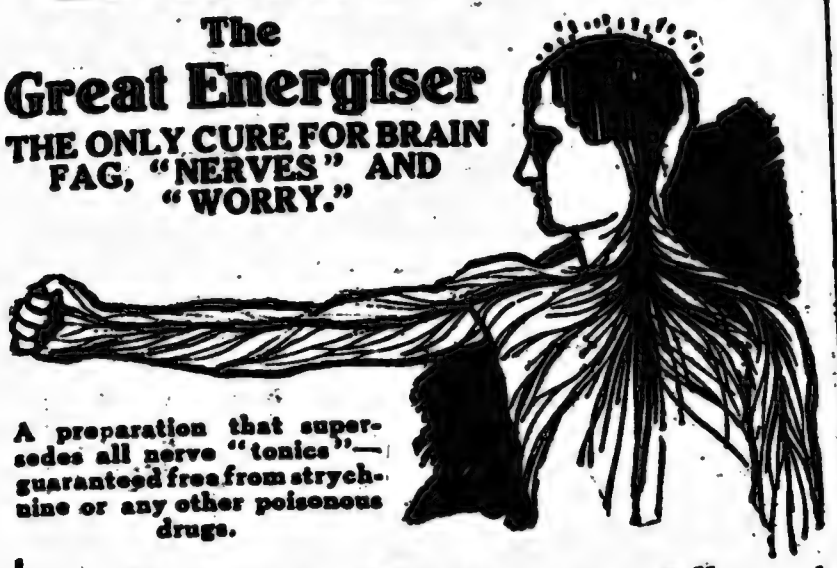
In ordering Parmint you should always specify that you want Double Strength. Your Chemist has Parmint, or will get it for you; if not, send to the International Laboratories, 62 Oxford Street, London, W.

THE
SHEET ANCHOR
— OF —
Sore Throat
SUFFERERS.
Wulfing's Formamint
The Germ-Killing Throat Tablet
Cures and Prevents Sore Throat
Of all Chemists, 1s. 11d. per bottle.
Free Sample on receipt of 1d. stamp—
A. Wulfing & Co., 12, Chenies Street,
London, W.C. Please mention this paper.
Madame
Adelina Patti
writes: "I find Formamint very beneficial for the throat."
Mr. Ben Davies
writes: "I find Formamint excellent for the throat and an effective disinfectant."

BRAININE

The Great Energiser

THE ONLY CURE FOR BRAIN FAG, "NERVES" AND "WORRY."



A preparation that supersedes all nerve "tonics"—guaranteed free from strychnine or any other poisonous drugs.

Brainine Recharges All Impaired Nerves, Imparting New Energy.

Some Convincing Testimony.

From Mr. HORATIO BOTTOMLEY, M.P.

"I have much pleasure in stating that during my recent illness I found BRAININE most beneficial."

A LEADING HOSPITAL NURSE says:—"Under doctor's orders I am now using BRAININE when on duty, and the effect is really wonderful. Most of my convalescents take it—and are loud in its praise."

"Please send me BRAININE pellets to the value of 2s. 3d., P.O. enclosed. I have taken one box and find they are curing that unreasonable nervousness that really amounts to physical cowardice."

Yours faithfully, A. C. B.

"Enclosed please find P.O. 2s. 3d., for which kindly send me three boxes of BRAININE. I have finished the box I had, and it appears to have done me good, so I am going to try them on my wife, who is a great sufferer from nerves."

Yours truly, A. P.

"DEAR SIR,—Will you kindly send me another box of your BRAININE pellets. I have already nearly finished the box I sent to you for and have derived great benefit from them. I feel all I can do is to thank God that I ever saw your advertisement in *Mrs. Bull*. For the last six years I have been an awful sufferer from nervous headaches which the doctor called Neuritis. My life has been one of misery, but since taking your pellets life seems worth living. I have tried everything I have heard of and nothing seems lasting. I am afraid these pellets might be only easing me for a time like other things I have taken, but have never found anything to ease me so much as your pellets. I have also recommended them to my friends.

"I think you should advertise them more for the benefit of poor sufferers like myself."

Yours gratefully, Miss J.

"Please find herewith enclosed 2s. 3d. for two boxes of BRAININE, as per your offer. I intend sticking to them; have finished taking first box."

Respectfully yours, A.

WHAT "BRAININE" IS.

"Brainine" is a BRAIN FOOD. It corrects the error into which the medical profession has hitherto fallen of treating the NERVES themselves—which are but the electric wires of the body—instead of the nerve source, the BRAIN, which is the electric Battery of the body. Unless the Battery is kept well charged, the current MUST give out. That is the explanation of the failure of all the so-called "Nerve Tonics." No strengthening of the wires will improve the current if the Battery is run down. Indeed, it only makes matters worse.

"Brainine" is made up in small chocolate-coated pellets, at 1s. 1½d. and 2s. 9d. per bottle, post free to any address in the United Kingdom.

If you have any difficulty in procuring a supply from your local Chemist or Stores, cut out this order and post direct with remittance.

To THE BRAININE COMPANY, 2, Marsham Street, Westminster, London, S.W.

Please forward me a supply of BRAININE, for which I enclose P.O. 1s. 1½d.

Name .....

Address (in full) .....

.....

State whether Mr., Mrs., or Miss .....

BOOTS THAT FIT

YOUR FEET AT A PRICE THAT SUITS YOUR POCKET

We are the Pioneers of the "Boots-by-post" System, and by dealing with us you save all middlemen's profits as we have no expensive shops to keep up. Ours is the biggest Boot Mail Order House in the World, and we send more boots through the Post every day than all the other Northampton Manufacturers put together. Every pair of boots sent from our Factory is warranted ALL LEATHER. "Footshape" Boots are noted all the world over. Thousands of letters from every inhabited country of the Globe have been received testifying to the wonderful value we offer.

Prove it yourself by sending for a pair TO-DAY. Cash cheerfully refunded in full if goods are not all we claim for them. We rely upon your absolute satisfaction to secure your order and FUTURE CUSTOM.

DESCRIPTIONS.

No. 1651.—10/9. Splendid quality selected BOX CALF DERBY PATTERN BOOT. Unbreakable backstrap and straight toe-cap as illustrated. Leather lined. Special quality stout hardwearing solid leather sole, machine sewn and stitched. Best make and finish.

No. 1651.—In BROWN WILLOW CALF, 11/9. A magnificent Boot.

SIZES: 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 (size 12, 1/- extra). Each size is made in four different widths. No. 3 width (narrow); No. 4 (medium); No. 5 (wide); No. 6 (extra wide). When ordering simply quote style No., and state size and width required. *If size is not known, send an old boot, or draw outline of stockinged foot on paper (Outline of boot is of no use).*

Write to-day for our 144-page Illustrated Catalogue FREE! on receipt of 2d. cost of postage only, and save pounds in your boot bill.

COUPON.

"John Bull," (April 20). I enclose P.O. 10/9 and Order on condition that if boots are not approved you will refund my money in full and pay postage both ways.

No.....

Size..... Width.....

W. BARRATT & CO., LTD.,

"Footshape" Boot Manufacturers,

D ept. 66), STERLING WORKS, NORTHAMPTON.

GRAVES

THE WORLD'S BEST CYCLE.

DUNLOP TYRES, REYNOLDS WELDLESS STEEL TUBING, PHILLIPS YOKE AND HINGE BRAKES, WILLIAMS CHAIN WHEEL AND CRANKS, PERRY'S FREE WHEEL, STURMEY-ARCHER OR B.S.A. THREE-SPEED GEAR, BROOKS B75 BEST SADDLE. Here is our offer to the rider who makes a hobby of his machine, and wants the best than can be built. We deliver this superb mount exactly to above specification, Carriage Paid to all approved orders for 10/- with order and convenient Monthly Payments if entirely satisfactory after full trial. This is absolutely the world's greatest high-class cycle offer.

Send a Post Card to-day for our New Cycle Catalogue

This interesting and useful book offers an unrivalled choice of Ladies' and Gent's machines with photo illustrations together with a mass of interesting and practical information, and full particulars of our Easy Supply System, the fairest and most equitable Easy Payment Terms ever offered. Every machine direct from the factory on approval and free trial. All money instantly returned without any discussion whatever if not entirely satisfied.

J. G. GRAVES LTD. SHEFFIELD.

ROYAL COMMISSIONS REQUIRED.

(By Our Lobby Correspondent.)

ON PARTY POLITICS.

GEORGE R. & I.

George the Fifth, by the Grace of God, of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and of the British Dominions beyond the Seas, King, Defender of the Faith, to Our trusty and well-beloved :—

Hilaire Belloc, Esquire;
*Horatio Bottomley, Esquire;
Harold Cox, Esquire; and
Rowland Hunt, Esquire:

GREETING!

Whereas We have deemed it expedient that a Commission should forthwith issue to inquire into and report upon the practice of Party Politics in Parliamentary elections, legislation, and in carrying on the business of Our Empire, to the hindrance and detriment of the same; and also to inquire into the law relating to that practice, and its administration; and to report whether any, and if so what, changes are desirable:

Now know ye that We, reposing great trust and confidence in your knowledge and ability, have authorised and appointed, and do by these presents authorise and appoint you, the said Hilaire Belloc (Chairman), Horatio Bottomley, Harold Cox, and Rowland Hunt to be Our Commissioners for the purpose of the said inquiry;

And for the better effecting the purpose of this Our Commission, We do by these presents give and grant unto you, or any three or more of you, full powers to call before you such persons as you shall judge likely to afford you any information upon the subject of this Our Commission; and also to call for, have access to and examine all such books, documents, registers and records as may afford you the fullest information on the subject, and to inquire of and concerning the premises by all other lawful ways and means whatsoever;

And We do further ordain that you, or any three or more of you, have liberty to report your proceedings under this Our Commission from time to time, if you shall judge it expedient so to do;

And Our further will and pleasure is that you do, with as little delay as possible, report to Us under your hands and seals, or under the hands and seals of any three or more of you, your opinion upon the matters herein submitted for your consideration;

And for the purpose of aiding you in your inquiries, We hereby appoint Our right trusty and well-beloved Archibald Philip Primrose, Earl of Rosebery, to be Secretary of this Our Commission.

Given at Our Court at St. James's, the 18th day of *April*, 1912, in the third year of Our Reign.

BY HIS MAJESTY'S COMMAND.

* *Whilst appreciating our contributor's compliment, the Editor would have to pray to be excused, having his hands quite full at the moment.*

BUCHANAN'S WHISKY

"BLACK
—&—
WHITE"

The Highest Standard of QUALITY.

TEA MERCHANTS

By Special Appointment

TO HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE V.

DRINK AND ENJOY

LIPTONS
1/9
TEA

The Finest and Most Delicious Tea Sold.

Other Leading Blends 1/6 & 1/4

LIPTONS
TEA

is sifted, blended, weighed, and packed by machinery. It is untouched by hand from the time the leaf is plucked until it reaches the consumer in Liptons registered packets.

Perfect Purity & Quality Guaranteed.

Tea Planters, Ceylon. Chief Offices: City Road, London.

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES EVERYWHERE.

LIPTON Ltd.

DRAMA OF TO-DAY.

The last days of this popular Gaiety success are being celebrated by Mr. George Dance's No. 1 Company at Ealing this week, after taking Deptford by storm at the Broadway Theatre. Beautifully mounted and staged, the performance compares very favourably in all respects with the original London production. Indeed, there are many improvements upon it. For instance, the relatively small part assigned to Miss Gabriel Ray has been expanded to one of the principal features of the play, and, in the hands of Miss Peggy Primrose, is rendered with a grace and cleverness which captivate the audience—especially in her wonderful impersonations of Gertie Millar, "Teddy" Payne, and Mr. Lester. Then we have most dainty dancing by Miss Adela Crispin, a second Connie Ediss in Miss Madge Lucas, and a splendid "Peggy" in Miss Roma June. Mr. Leonard, in an original conception of the character, takes Mr. Payne's part, and is ably backed up by Mr. Shelford, as "Auberon Blow"; whilst Mr. Wellington, who admirably portrays the rich uncle, will assuredly do bigger work before long; the same remark applies to Mr. Hardy, who gives quite a classic rendering of the Casino janitor's *role*. Altogether it is a fine performance, and reflects the utmost credit upon the stage manager, Mr. Rolfe (who fills up his time with some very funny work as the "Mayor of Friville"), and upon the conductor, Mr. Robinson, who, by the way, has adopted, with great success, the new style of using his hands only, without the baton. Mr. Dance is to be congratulated on this latest addition to his laurels, and, incidentally, upon bringing to light some of the very best musical comedy talent now upon the stage.

THE COMMAND PERFORMANCE.

We are pleased to see that Mr. W. H. Clemart, of the Variety Artistes' Federation, has been invited to join the committee of experts which is to arrange the details of the great State performance at the Palace Theatre. Certainly in these matters the powers that be recognise the importance of the Business element.

OUR £2,000 FOOTBALL COMPETITION.

The Consolation Prize of £25 in our Football Forecast Competition has been awarded to:—

Mrs. N. Stevens, 26, Albert Street, Regent's Park, N.W., who was successful in predicting 17 winners out of 20 matches played on April 6th.

In Football Results No 14,

Mr. C. S. Lockwood, 23, Somerset Street, Barnsley, has been awarded the Consolation Prize of £25, having named all the winning teams with one correct score.

MESSRS. JOHN KNIGHT, LIMITED, soap makers to His Majesty, are putting up in a most attractive form their celebrated "Shavallo" soap, which makes shaving, in either hot or cold water, a luxury. Our readers should certainly send a penny stamp for postage on a free sample, which will be forwarded on addressing "Dept. 'J. B.,' Messrs. John Knight, Limited, London, E."

HOW YOU CAN WIN.

You've got to have "grit" and "nerve" to win in any kind of a contest, whether it be for athletic honours or for success. Men who accomplish big things, who succeed when others fail, are the men with force and energy, men who have courage to venture when others hesitate.

Many a man is held down to some small, thankless job, working like a machine, year in and year out, with no prospect of getting an increase in pay, who could just as well be earning a "fat" salary if he had the strength and vim to get up and hustle.

The spirit of hustle comes from sound, vigorous health, and when a man is tortured every hour of the day by worry over his physical incapacity, he cannot muster the strength and courage to get in and dig his way to the top.

Give us a man who is kept down by lack of energy, backwardness, despondency, lost vitality or weakness of any kind, and we will make a man of him by filling his nerves with the fire of life—electricity.

It is the man with "backbone" who gets the good job. It is the aggressive hustler that gets the promotion when there is a vacancy. A man without energy has no inclination to hustle. Don't go around dragging one foot after the other. Get some life in you. Build up your courage and vim with the "Ajax" Battery.

The "Ajax" Battery is the electric invigorating device which pumps a stream of energy into the body. It renews the feeling of ambition. It makes men out of slow-going, discouraged weaklings. If you have a pain it will drive it out. If you have stomach trouble, lumbago, sciatica, kidney or liver complaint, or just a loss of nerve force, the "Ajax" Battery will restore you to perfect health.

THIS IS FREE.

Call or write for our 80-page illustrated book, which tells how to restore health and vim. It will open your eyes to a lot of things you should know regarding the cause and cure of disease. Write at once, to-day, for free book and advice.

THE BRITISH ELECTRIC INSTITUTE,
(Dept. 41), 25, HOLBORN VIADUCT, LONDON, E.C.

How is it done?

How often have you asked the above question when you have been anxious to decorate the home yourself? Send for our book

The DECORATORS COMPLETE GUIDE

and you will know more about ALL decorating subjects—in three days—than you would learn from other books in three years.

Full Instructions on Painting, Paperhanging, Staining, Graining, Varnishing, Enamelling, Polishing, Stencilling, Signwriting, Paint and Colour Mixing, etc. How to mix and use Stains, Polishes, Inks, Dyes, and SCORES of valuable household and spring cleaning recipes.

Contains more VALUABLE and PRACTICAL information than all other books combined.

REMEMBER! The price is 6d. only. Thousands of purchasers say it is worth ten times the amount.

PRICE: **6d.** Post Free

If you are not in every way delighted with it send it back to us and we will return amount paid including cost of postage.

GENUINE TESTIMONIALS:

With the aid of your valuable book I have decorated my house throughout. I knew nothing about decorating until I got your book.

Your book is a treasure, and invaluable to anyone owning their own house. I would not be without it at any price.

Your book is the very thing I have been looking for for years. If I could not get another copy I would not sell mine for 10/-.

Send for a copy to-day and learn—as thousands have already learnt—how easy it is to decorate the home.

All Post Free

DECORATORS' STORES, Dept., J.B. Lytham Road, Blackpool.

GRAVES

A POSTCARD will bring you our Handsomely Illustrated Art Catalogue, exhibiting thousands of lovely designs in Gold Dress and Engagement Rings, Signets, Brooches, Bracelets, Watches, Necklets, Pendants, and a multitude of beautiful and valuable articles of adornment. All the newest and most beautiful productions of the Jewellery trade are offered in lavish variety, forming a display unequalled for taste, quality, value, and superior workmanship and finish.

Write for Large Illustrated Catalogue Free

The Graves Business System ensures satisfaction. Anything you wish is delivered on approval for small payment with order and easy monthly postal payments after delivery, if you are entirely satisfied with the goods after full examination. If in any way disappointed, we refund all money immediately. 2/- in £ Cash Discount. Ask for Catalogue B.

J. G. GRAVES Ltd. SHEFFIELD.

RINGS

If You're a High-Grade Man

with Special Ability which fits you to occupy a really Responsible Position in some Clerical, Technical, Organising, or Travelling capacity—you can get into touch with your Right Position through Hapgoods. We have large numbers of High-grade Positions open, and we want to hear from Bright Energetic Men of More than Average Ability, who are capable of filling them. If you are such a man—write us to-day.

HAPGOODS Ltd., 167-168, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

JOHN BULL'S LETTER BAG.

[The EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when forwarding cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when referring to previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of INQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag," and* ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPES ARE ATTACHED TO THE MANUSCRIPT. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. *The most suitable lengths for articles and stories are about 750 words (one column), or 1,500 words (a page).*

The EDITOR *cannot express any opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be forwarded in the first instance.*

D. P. (London).—You have had a narrow escape. Take a lesson from the fate of the business girl referred to in our Special Commissioner's article under the heading of "Behind the Veil of London Life."

MR. BERT FRY, of Bale, the well-known Football and Racing "Accountant," disclaims all knowledge of the individual who is betting at various race meetings in his name; and as this person is also using our name as a reference, we desire to join in the disclaimer—especially as complaints reach us as to the sticky condition of the man's fingers.

A GROUP of Inniskilling Fusiliers send us their photograph with JOHN BULL prominently shown in the foreground, and tell us that "the 'Skins' are firm supporters of the Business Government." Three cheers for the 'Skins.'!

J. W. F. G. (Rawal Pindi).—Our highest circulation during the period you mention did not quite reach the million, but we look like getting there soon now.

"PACE TUA" (Devonport), AND MANY OTHERS, send us their congratulations on the victory of our little gee-gee, "The Gun," at Plumpton, and look at the event as a happy augury, indicating that both horse and owner have now got safely over the fences. We must wait for the Queen's Hall meeting.

A READER informs us that, not having his cheque book with him and requiring to draw some money, he obtained a cheque form at his bank, and was asked by the cashier for a penny for the stamp, with the observation "Lloyd George takes good care of that." Of course, cheque stamps were established before the present Chancellor of the Exchequer was born—but "Give a dog a bad name," etc.

J. N. (Eastbourne), apropos of our recent article on "Bad Easter Eggs," is good enough to inform us that a "rooster does not lay eggs." Having a small poultry farm of our own, we were quite aware of the fact, but we have always been under the impression that the rooster had something to do with the quality of the eggs' contents.

"ALFRED" (Natal).—It was Disraeli who, speaking in London in 1878, invented the much misquoted phrase: "A sophistical rhetorician, inebriated with the exuberance of his own verbosity."

M. H. D. (Boston, Mass.) is a collector of foreign stamps, and would like to get into "touch" with any of our subscribers who suffer from the same complaint. Has the philatelic microbe attacked any of our readers?

"OBSERVER" (Evanton) writes us a gloomy letter to the effect that he "received a bottle by post all broken, and of course the contents lost." The P.O. authorities had thoughtfully attached a claim form to the parcel, but the local postmaster advises him not to put in a claim. He concludes by asking if we can suggest anything. We would regulate our procedure according to what the bottle originally contained—cod-liver oil, soothing syrup, champagne, old brandy, or "Brainine."

"A SUBSCRIBER" (Yarmouth) sends us an advertisement cut from the *Eastern Evening News*:—"For Sale, Stack good Meadow Hay, useful, beam 8 x 5, dept 3 ft., suitable for Houseboat.—Apply, Seago, Iron and Metal Merchant, Row 133, Great Yarmouth." Is this chaff, or is it possible that holiday makers on the Norfolk Broads chew the cud?

"ANTI-SCOT" (Edinburgh) says the Scotsman is not pre-eminent for brains, but for whisky. Well, we cannot expect even the Scots to have *all* the talents.

G. A. H. (Enfield) tells us it took the Board of Trade three months to decide whether they would employ him as one of the Labour Exchange registration clerks. We presume most of the time was taken up in hunting for that elusive member of the Board, the Speaker of the Irish Parliament, whose opinion would be necessary on such an important matter.

F. (St. James's) sends us 10s. for the lad referred to in our paragraph, 'Terrible Doings at Southend." We have had much pleasure in forwarding the amount to him.

"CURE" (Cork) asks us three questions:—(1) Did the King tell the daily papers he would not go? (2) Did the King tell *Truth* he would go? (3) Did the King go to see the Grand National run? Our friend, whose letter was dated April 1st, had better ask the King.

C. L. (Manchester) encloses a cutting from the *Daily Dispatch*, concerning the University Boat Race, in which the following sentence, apparently inspired by Lloyd George, appears:—"Already the fruit had been plucked by the gallant Oxford stroke, the fruit was reaching his parched and hungry mouth when the cup was dashed from his lips." We see. He preferred the fruit to the cup.

C. W. L. (Walthamstow).—If the Victorian Government are offering assisted passages to motor mechanics and engineers, it is reasonable to suppose that labour of that kind is required in Victoria. Ask the London representative if employment is guaranteed.

A. F. S. (Hoxton) declares that the cattle shipped over from America have a better time of it than the men who look after them. Maybe. But, at any rate, the men are not slaughtered on arrival.

MRS. E. C. (Liverpool) wants to know "how a woman having from three to four hours a day to spare might earn a little money in her own home." That is a problem for Our Tame Phrenologist, who would require to feel her bumps to discover her special talent—or for *Mrs. Bull*.

C. W. H. (Liverpool) tells us he sent a telegraphic money order a distance of twelve miles, and it was not delivered for 48 hours. Anyhow, it *did* arrive. Under the present regime, one must be thankful for small mercies.

F. H. (Brighton).—We note that in the *Evening News* of April 1st, the L. and S.W. Railway announced, "with regret, their *liability* to issue any excursion or other cheap tickets during the Easter holidays." It is truly astonishing what some railways are liable to do—on April 1st.

T. L. (Darlington).—We agree that the so-called "equity of redemption" under existing law is frequently a polite fiction. One of the aims of the Business Government will be to make it a reality. Thanks for good wishes.

S. L. (Edgbaston).—*Whitaker* may have made a "bloomer" concerning the population of Glasgow. We cannot say. We have never counted them. But the statement of the *Daily Mirror* that the population is £785,000 may be truer than appears at first sight. We presume it to be a combined statement of the numbers and their value—£1 per head; and a Glaswegian would be cheap at the price. At any rate, we *must* say so.

G. W. (London, S.E.).—Far from casting your letter into our overflowing wastepaper basket, we have read it, and agree that the way cinematograph shows are overcrowded, and the lives of patrons endangered by persons being permitted to block the gangways, is a scandal. When there has been a fire, attended by serious loss of life, perhaps the authorities will bestir themselves.

E. I. A. (Willesden).—We really cannot agree that 8s. 4d. was an out-of-the-way price to charge for tea for five adults and four children. Youngsters work up a pretty good appetite when out in the country, you know, and even publicans must make a profit. But if you did not have enough to eat, and the service was neglectful, you have a right to complain.

J. E. B. (Cheltenham).—Fee-snatching employment agencies will never be put down so long as people are foolish enough to pay them money in advance. Don't do it again.

"ANTI-CRUELTY."—If we could do something to lighten the lot of the pit ponies we would gladly do it. There should be a Department to look after the animals, instead of leaving them to the sporadic efforts of private societies.

"NOT A SUFFRAGETTE" writes: "Is it any wonder women smash windows, and"—do other naughty things? "Can't you say a word or two on behalf of the down-trodden women-clerks?" We can. We do not consider 7s. 6d. a week a reasonable wage for a female typist. We would not engage one who did not think she was worth more than that.

J. K. (Gold Coast, West Africa).—It is quite outside our province to give commercial recommendations, or we would be happy to assist you in discovering a merchant trading in West Africa who might be willing to do business with you.

"LITIGANT" (Manchester).—Our Privilege of Counsel Bill will cover the point you mention. It is an old trick.

"MINOR" (London).—We are about to deal with certain solicitors who have made it a business to advance money to minors. Meanwhile your case is noted.

"LEAGUER" (Bristol) wants Mr. Bottomley to come to the Colston Hall again and "wake things up." We hope shortly to announce particulars of an extended tour throughout the country, and Bristol will certainly not be overlooked.

"SIX BULLITES" (Derby) are coming up specially for our meeting. We will see that they have good seats.

H. S. (London) recently gave a bachelor's dinner party, and thought he would amuse his guests with some "naughty" cinematograph pictures. But he found that all the films had been sent out of the country or destroyed, the various firms who used to supply them putting it all down to "that d——d JOHN BULL"! That is also what the "Prudential" call us.

A. W. H. (Horsham), in reference to our recent article on the General Insurance Bureau and Legal Aid Society, of 184, Regent Street, tells us that his son was kicked by a horse and killed, and he got the Society to take up the case for him, they writing that they would hand over the matter to their solicitor—Mr. T. Hugh Horwood—to act for him, for which "there will, of course, be no charge." They were allowed by the Court £22 costs, and, despite their assurance, wanted another £10. He paid £5, but refused to give them more. He was surprised, on calling, to find that the office of the Society was a small room on the top floor of a block of tenements, where he saw no one except Mr. Horwood and a clerk.

"A REGULAR READER" (Glasgow) tells us that Ellis and Reid, of 88, Great Clyde Street—to whose bonus tea business we recently referred—have been having rather a warm time of it, a party of about ten women appearing at their premises and interviewing the boss regarding the bonus promised them by travellers. Needless to say, they went away without any additional cash in their purses.

"SHETLANDER" (Scalloway), in reference to our recent paragraphs regarding that dilatory firm, J. Fisher and Sons, of Woolwich, tells us that in April, 1910, he ordered some goods on approbation, enclosing £2. Not receiving the articles after several letters, in July of that year they wrote that samples would be sent "on Tuesday next, certain." Nothing coming, a year later, he instructed a firm of debt collectors, who replied that they had done their best and had failed, and therefore asked permission to employ the aid of the law. Not wishing to throw good money after bad, "Shetlander" decided to let the matter drop.

"NORTHERN TERROR" (London).—Wait and see.

A. H. (Middlesbro').—As you will see by referring to the head of this column, we do not undertake to value books.

[We are obliged to hold over a large number of replies.]

"Can you Hit the Bull's-Eye?"—*See page 513.*

OUR GREAT COMPETITION.

CAN YOU HIT THE BULL'S EYE?

PRELIMINARY TRIAL.

As already announced, it is our intention at the close of the Football Season to institute what we believe will be a very popular competition, in which all may join, consisting of

HITTING THE BULL'S EYE,

and we hope as soon as the competition is in working order to be able to award prizes amounting to

£500 PER WEEK,

and later on, as the number of entries increases, to raise the amount to

£1,000 PER WEEK.

In the meantime, and pending the close of the Football Season, we have decided upon an Experimental Co-operative Scheme under which Competitors shall provide a Fund, THE WHOLE OF WHICH—FREE OF ANY DEDUCTION FOR EXPENSES—*will be distributed as follows:—*

1st PRIZE, 25 per cent.;
2nd PRIZE, 15 per cent.;
3rd PRIZE, 10 per cent.;

And Fifty Prizes of 1 per cent. for the best attempts to HIT THE BULL'S EYE.

The competition consists in completing any one of the unfinished Bull's Eyes appearing below. The answers must be crisp and to the point, and the prizes will be awarded to those readers who, in the judgment of the Editor—whose decision is to be absolutely final—hit the Bull's Eye in the clearest and sharpest form. The other Bull's Eyes will guide them as to the style they should adopt, and the finishing of the incomplete ones should afford much amusement and, at the same time, instruction.

All Bull's Eyes must be sent in on the form on p. 514, and a postal order for 6d. must accompany each coupon. Postal orders must be made payable to JOHN BULL *and crossed "& Co." Competitors sending more than one Coupon may enclose one Postal Order for the full amount to cover the whole of the Coupons, at the rate of 6d. for each Coupon. Write your name and address on the back of the Postal Order, and also put the number of the Postal Order on the Coupon. Coupon will be found on next page. Not more than* TWO *attempts may appear on any* ONE COUPON. *Any Bull's Eye may be varied any number of times.*

The Bull's Eyes selected for the Competition are numbered, and it is not necessary to repeat the printed portion of the lines, as long as the numbers are mentioned on the coupon.

THE RESULT OF LAST WEEK'S COMPETITION WILL BE ANNOUNCED NEXT THURSDAY.

(For Coupon, see p. 514.)

BULL'S EYES.

NOTES OF INTERROGATION:—
Won't the Premier find an "Ulster" rather warm just now?
Is the "Right to riot" to be the next Socialist cry?
Wasn't it a "Nor'-Easter" for the seaside resorts this year?
Isn't Roosevelt finding Taft a "big sticker"?
Is there anything in the "Cup" this year?
Hasn't the King ever been to a music-hall before?
Will Dr. Owen run a Bacon-shop as a "side"-show at the Shakespeare Exhibition?
Has "The Pink Lady" anything to blush for?
Aren't they calling it the minimum "wedge" now?

1.—There is a law in Michigan State against any woman wearing a hatpin more than ten inches long. A good . . . . . .

There are to be some new hostesses in London this season. They will be preferred to the old ones.

A Parisian woman has left all her money to a dog. Not the first time a fortune has gone in that direction.

"Musical Marriage," reads a heading. Yes, the discords come after.

"Breakfast has of late years fallen into disrepute," says Mr. Harry Graham. Yes, some of us cannot stomach it.

"Streams"—a recently published book—doubtless comes under the head of "current fiction."

Miss A. M. Buckton describes government as "a matter of glorious housekeeping." More often it is "inglorious office-keeping."

A member of the Quebec Legislature threw a stool at another member. He deserves to lose his seat.

Appendicitis, it appears, is seven thousand years old. Yet some folk have only just got it.

2.—Sir Joseph Lyons' play should be a success. Most of his things . . . . . .

(Continued on page 514.)

A Story Being Talked About

HER DISGUISE

The Fascinating
SHORT SERIAL
BY GERTIE DE S. WENTWORTH JAMES

JUST COMMENCED IN

MRS. BULL

is already being talked about. This is not to be wondered at, as the theme is one of the most novel and strange ever put before fiction lovers The story centres round Natalie Norford—a girl gifted with good looks and of singular charm—who by the vicissitudes of fortune is compelled to seek a position as house-keeper. The situations in which she and her master, Rovere Lynette, find themselves are strange and extraordinary, full of surprises and often humorous, whilst a strong love interest gives the element needful to make the perfect story.

On No Account Miss Reading this Delightful . . Short Serial. . .

You can start it to-day by buying this week's MRS. BULL Now on Sale 1d.

An Italian writer says of London girls that every one is "Miss Right." We could show him a few wrong 'uns.

Publicans are to be ineligible as lifeboatmen. We should have fancied that a "long pull" would be useful.

President Taft only sleeps six hours per day. He doesn't want to be caught napping.

8.—"The Marriage Market" is the name of a forthcoming play. But we thought brides were always . . . . . .

The Essex burglar who included a bar of soap among his plunder no doubt hoped to wash his hands of the affair.

One of the curious contradictions of love is that a man may be "hard hit" by a "Miss."

"Lying Lips" is the name of a new book. We trust that the "story" is well told.

4.—The Essex man who has worked on one farm for sixty years evidently knows how to . . . . . .

The Borough porter who ate a dozen buns and drank three pints of ale for a wager must have had as much as he could carry.

A new ballet is entitled "The Water Nymph." No doubt it will go swimmingly.

Coal Strike was the name of a losing horse at Leicester recently. But it wasn't the favourite.

5.—Dr. Cook has been telling his story to blind people in Toronto. Yet even they . . . . . .

BULL'S EYE COUPON.

Postal Order No. JOHN BULL, *April 20, 1912.*

I enter JOHN BULL *Bull's Eye Competition (issue of April 20, 1912) on the terms stated in such issue.*

Name _____

Address _____

_____

I select Bull's Eye No. *and suggest the following finish:—*

Not more than 12 words. _____

_____

_____

I select Bull's Eye No. *and suggest the following finish:—*

Not more than 12 words. _____

_____

_____

Competitors need not select more than one Bull's Eye, unless they care to do so. Postal Order for Sixpence must accompany this Coupon. Coupon must be sent not later than WEDNESDAY NEXT, *April 24th, to Bull's Eye Editor,* JOHN BULL, *93 and 94, Long Acre, London, W.C.*

JOHN BULL'S BEST

In Shaving Soaps is still "Erasmic"—the world's best. You can neither buy nor wish for a better Shaving Soap than the British and Best "Erasmic."

If you have not yet proved it you can do so by sending 2d. stamps for Trial Sample

10d. per stick.
All Chemists and Hairdressers.

THE ERASMIC CO., LTD.,
(Dept. K), WARRINGTON.

"Erasmic" SHAVING STICK

AN IDEAL SPORTS SUIT
for Playtime Wear.

The new "Selsport" Jacket combines the advantages of the Coat that proved so popular last season, with several new points. The coat is unlined, and back has inverted pleat between shoulders which "gives" with every movement of the body. The "freedom" sleeves are so made that there is no drag at the armholes, no matter how strenuous the play, and are finished with a deep hem that enables them to be worn turned back or buttoned over at the wrist.

In Irish and Scotch Tweeds at **30/-**

The "Selfridge" Ready-for-Service Flannel Trousers are made to "clip" at the waist line, and do not require hitching up. They are finished with small loops for belt and with neat serviceable straps and buckles at waist over hips.

Made from unshrinkable materials in three shades of Grey, two shades of Lovat Green, and in White **13/-**

Patterns and self measurement forms post free on request.

SELFRIDGE & CO., LTD.,
OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.

ALLEN'S DAILY SYSTEM WIRES

Copyright. AND ALLEN'S METHOD OF INVESTMENT Entd. Stationers Hall.

RENDER WINNING A SUPREME UNFAILING CERTAINTY!

RAPIDLY ACCUMULATING PROFITS FOR BACKERS! FORTUNES FOR BACKERS!

LET ME ENABLE YOU TO BEAT YOUR BOOKMAKER FROM NOW ON!!!

My Free Book

Tells you everything! It is full of convincing proofs, testimonials, Press notices, etc. It also contains my SELECTIONS for 1909, 1910 and 1911, and many

IMPORTANT FACTS

relating to

SUCCESSFUL TURF INVESTMENT!

My Turf Winning Plan is truly a REMARKABLE means of defeating the Bookmaker permanently, and it is an UNDENIABLE FACT that EVERY-ONE can make MONEY on the TURF and actually make a regular lucrative INCOME on SOUND, EASY, and INVINCIBLE lines! To each and every client I

ASSURE A REGULAR INCOME

absolutely without fail each season, and if you can possibly find I do not carry out my great assurance genuinely, I will REFUND YOUR MONEY ABSOLUTELY IN FULL. Daily Profits Often Exceed £10!

Write for a Copy of My Great Free Book To-day!

Write your name and address and words "John Bull" on a postcard, and by return you will receive this great Free Book in a Plain Sealed Envelope.

C. ALLEN, Professional Backer, AVENUE CHAMBERS, VERNON PLACE, LONDON, W.C.

Telephone: 15227 Central. Telegrams: "Reglincom London."

HUGE WINNINGS.

My clients are enabled to win huge amounts with only a trifling capital! You can start, like many others, with only £2 Capital, and you should do so at once.

PRODIGIOUS SUCCESS.

MOTHER

SEIGEL'S SYRUP

TABLETS

Don't be a spectre at the feast. Don't check the flow of wit and cast a gloomy shadow on the company. Don't let pass the best dishes as things to be dreaded. IT ISN'T NECESSARY. No, not if you have in your waistcoat pocket a bottle of Mother Seigel's TABLETS. This world-renowned remedy for Indigestion and all Stomach Troubles in Tablet form is prepared from exactly the same formula and has the same remarkable curative properties as the Syrup, which has been before the public for more than 40 years, during which time it has built up a solid reputation upon CURES it has effected. In this concentrated form it is more convenient for the use of business men and travellers. Keep a bottle in YOUR waistcoat pocket.

CURE

If you suffer from indigestion, pains after eating, heartburn, acidity or other stomach troubles, Mother Seigel's Syrup Tablets will cure you. They have cured thousands of others, and why not you? Made from roots, herbs, and barks of proved curative value, they act gently, safely, surely, on stomach, liver and bowels, cleansing the system and promoting sound, healthy digestion. Ask your friends: they know.

INDIGESTION

AND ALL

STOMACH TROUBLES.

PRICE 2/9. SOLD EVERYWHERE.

Don't Wear a Truss!

After Thirty Years' Experience Have Produced an Appliance for Men, Women or Children that Cures Rupture.

I SEND IT ON TRIAL.

If you have tried most everything else, come to me. Where others fail is where I have my greatest success. Send attached coupon to-day and I will send you free my illustrated book on Rupture and its cure, showing my Appliance and giving you prices and names of many people who have tried it and are extremely grateful. It is instant relief where all others fail. Remember, I use no salves, no harness, no lies.

I make it to your measure and send it to you on a strict guarantee of satisfaction or money refunded, and I have put my price so low that anybody, rich or poor, can buy it. I send on trial to prove what I say is true. You are the judge, and once having seen my illustrated book and read it you will be as enthusiastic as my thousands of patients whose letters are on file in my office. Fill out free coupon below and post to-day.

The above is C. E. Brooks who has been Curing Rupture for over 30 years. If Ruptured Write him to-day.

FREE INFORMATION COUPON.

C. E. Brooks, 455, Bank Buildings (Corner of Portugal St.), Kingsway, London, W.C.

Please send me by post in plain wrapper your Illustrated Book and full information about your Appliance for the cure of rupture.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

Please write plainly.

CASTLE Collars

List of Shapes Free on Request

are faced with strong Irish Linen woven in our Banbridge factory and are our own make throughout.

6D. SAMPLE "CASTLE" COLLAR IN ANY SHAPE OR SIZE. 6D.

POST FREE FOR SIX STAMPS.

ROBINSON & CLEAVER, Ltd.,

44, E. Donegall Place.

LONDON. BELFAST. LIVERPOOL.

THE

STOCK AND SHARE

DEPARTMENT OF

FARROW'S BANK Ltd.

Deals only with the leading members of the STOCK EXCHANGE, and is prepared to buy or sell Stocks and Shares for its

CUSTOMERS OR THE PUBLIC.

The Department is in direct telephone communication with the Stock Exchange and is in consequence enabled to deal at the closest possible market price, and offers EXTENSIVE FACILITIES to investors throughout the Kingdom.

NEW ILLUSTRATED BOOKLET POST FREE.

STOCKS AND SHARE DEPARTMENT,

1, CHEAPSIDE, E.C.

☞ *Instructions for deals in Options, Margins or Covers are not accepted.*

ESTABLISHED 1892.

INSTRUCTIONS by LETTER. PAYMENTS NIGHTLY.

3, CROWN PLACE, LEITH.

J. McLAUCHLAN,

CREDIT ACCOUNTS. 16, PRINCES STREET, EDINBURGH

Also at LUCERNE, SWITZERLAND.

Telegrams: "Gallop, Edinburgh." Send for Rules, Ready Reckoner, &c.

BUSINESS ALL THE YEAR ROUND.

PRINCIPAL WINNERS OF MY LINCOLNSHIRE SWEEPSTAKE.

1st PRIZE, £500. No. of Ticket, 51326, won by W. R. WARRACK, 16, Dumbarton Road, Brixton Hill, London, to whom has been forwarded Bank of England Note, Number R 2,6 41 for £500.

2nd PRIZE, £250. No. of Ticket, 61931, won by JAS. BOOTH, 3 Coach Row, Barkerend, Bradford, to whom has been forwarded three Bank of England Notes, Numbers Y 13,151.7 for £.00. O 8.0200 for £100. X 9,111 1 for £50.

3rd PRIZE, £100. No. of Ticket, 73875, won by J. SCHWARE, 98, Amhurst P., London, N., to whom has been forwarded Bank of England Note, Number Y 0,857-8 for £100.

4th PRIZE, £50. No. of Ticket, 211567, won by R. TEGG, Bethune Road, Stoke Newington, to whom has been forwarded Bank of England Note, Number X 9,09715 for £50.

GRAVES

Send Postcard for our Handsome Selection of Suiting Patterns cut from the cloth lengths which we are now making up into Stylish, Gentlemanly Autumn and Winter Suits. This fine exhibition of cloth samples includes the most attractive and durable designs in Tweeds, Cheviots, Worsted Serges, plain Black and Blue Vicunas, and a splendid range of hard-wearing Yorkshire Suitings at 38/- and 42/- Graves Tailoring is for men of all ages, and wherever you live, our challenging prices and easy terms are for YOU. All approved orders are delivered carriage paid for 5/-, and balance in six monthly payments. When tried on at home, if you are disappointed with the material, style, fit, or goodness of the work, we instantly return all money paid.

5/- with order.

Send a Postcard for Patterns To-day.

With our fine display of cloth samples in your hands, you can judge for yourself the quality and durability of the materials, and you will be astonished to find how easily you may dress well on a surprisingly small outlay. 2/- in £ Cash Discount.

J. G. Graves Ltd. Sheffield.

SUITS

RACING NOTES.

By W. Lotinga.
["*Larry Lynx*" *of* The People, "*Double U. L.*" *of* Lotinga's Weekly, *and* "*Magpie*" *of* The Globe.]

Prophetic.

With Newmarket nearly over and the earlier happenings bound to influence to-day's issues, it is not policy to deal speculatively with the meeting unless the Ziria colt runs for the Three-Year-Old Handicap, although he is much more likely to wait for Derby, when he should gain Friday's Quarndon Handicap. Framed before the Lincoln, the Doveridge Handicap presents a very trappy problem, but I think Toiler is such a genuine little horse that he might overcome a disadvantage in the weights, and be worth trifling support each way. Should she not have competed at Newmarket, Badoura is certain to win a similar small handicap, and may take the Welbeck Plate, but the best thing of the week is

Election

in Saturday's Derbyshire Plate.

At Epsom's important meeting Badoura is also engaged in the Tadworth Plate, while Ormus should gain the Prince of Wales' Stakes, or his Sandown race, if reserved for it. Eblis is in the Copthorne Plate, and always runs well on this course. In the Great Metropolitan among a *very* bad lot, I think whatever beats

The Policeman

will win it, and this genuine stayer is worth support each way, while in the City and Suburban—especially as he is bound to be at a long price—my idea is that

Eton Boy,

win and place, is the most advisable wager. The colt was running on at Newbury after being chopped for speed.

FOOTBALL SELECTIONS.

By "McW."

This is my last but one list of selections for the season:

Probables.

Aston Villa, Liverpool, Middlesbro', Burnley, Derby, West Ham, Q P. Rangers, Brentford, New Brompton. Millwall.

Possibles.

Manchester United, Sheffield Wednesday Fulham, Glossop, Hull, Crystal Palace (away), Watford, Luton.

I fancy West Bromwich Albion for the Cup.

BERT FRY, BALE 2, SWITZERLAND.

THE SPORTSMAN, July 14th, 1911, says:—"BERT FRY, one of the best-known of the Flushing Turf Accountants, has removed his offices to Bale, Switzerland."

Football

COMMISSIONS ACCEPTED FOR THREE HOME TEAMS.
Special Half-Time Sheet. £50 Free Prize Weekly. Free Postage.

BRAVO. The RACING STU have another inspired £100 Double
BRAVO. running Tuesday (better than their Killarkin 10-1 and Sarpen-
BRAVO. don 6-1, both won last Thursday. Races quite at their
BRAVO. mercy. Connections scorn defeat. The "Press" will be
BRAVO. "baffled." Post £3, and if you win less than £100 to £1 money
BRAVO. returned. Without it is "guarantee" post 5/. Praise by L. L.
BRAVO. of "PEOPLE," "JOHN BULL," "SPORTING LIFE," etc
BRAVO. High Road, Turnham Green, W

£10,000 to £10 ECLIPSED, AND AGAIN BY

DOUGLAS STUART,

BASLE, SWITZERLAND,

Who LAID and PAID over £11,000 on

LONG SET and JERRY M.

If YOU appreciate SAFETY and LIBERALITY send a Deposit for any amount to-day to

BASLE, SWITZERLAND,

and enjoy the most generous terms extant.

SPECIAL NOTE:—Douglas Stuart will move on May 1st to more convenient offices address will be announced in due course. Up to April 30th, Clients are perfectly safe in sending their business to Basle, Switzerland, as usual.

Originator of real **NO LIMIT** combined with

PLACE BETTING When Favourite starts Odds-on.

Special Facilities for Wiring } for Daily **S.P.**

BOOKS OPEN ON

City & Suburban, Jubilee and Derby.

SYSTEM SPECIALIST. No Commission.

MARKET PRICE GUARANTEED as ruling when letter is postmarked.

£1,006 to 5/-

The Totalisator

has paid this sum out over one Lincoln Handicap investment on LONG SET. Mr. E. H. Hann, of 77a, Larden Road, Acton Vale, London, was the lucky winner of this sum.

£10,000 to 5/- over the winner of the Derby.

Terms sent free on application by penny postcard to

The TOTALISATOR,
LUCERNE, SWITZERLAND.
Managing Director - - - H. Cullerne-Bown.

W. & A. FOX, Football Accountants.
BASLE, SWITZERLAND.

Information Extraordinary! City & Suburban Handicap Winner FREE.

FREE Would you like to participate in one of those carefully planned Handicap Coups, which only come to hand on rare occasions and which almost invariably materialise at good prices, bringing fortunes to all who are fortunate enough to participate therein? I am in the position to impart very special information regarding a horse competing in the City and Suburban Handicap next week, which has successfully undergone a searching preparation for this race, has been privately tried to have a big advantage at the weights and is confidently expected by its astute connections to WIN EASILY. FREE

It is obvious that I cannot here tell you all I know; but I can and do tell you that never before have I been in the position to impart information which so conclusively points to a HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL RESULT BEING ACHIEVED, and I cordially invite you, if you wish to share in what undoubtedly is the best business of the week, to send me a STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IMMEDIATELY, and I will send you the name of this almost CERTAIN WINNER by RETURN OF POST, free of any charge. FREE

Write at once to—

FREE **Mr. T. HARTINGDON, Ashley Chambers, EPSOM, SURREY.** FREE

£2,000 YOUR LAST CHANCE £2,000

LAST WEEK OF OUR GREAT OFFER. NO ENTRANCE FEE. £50 MUST BE WON.

Surely someone is going to win one of the £1,000 prizes before the competitions close. We say this because up to the moment, although the competitions have been running now for about four months, no reader has actually won the £1,000 outright. Week after week, of course, we have had to pay £50 as Consolation money, but this is not what we want. We want to be in a position to say that we have paid one of our readers £1,000 for his skill in relation to Football.

Our scheme is no complicated one. Below are the coupons for two distinct and separate competitions, and the £2,000 prize money is divided like this:—

1 £1,000 for naming one match of each League in which the most goals are scored on Saturday, April 27, or, in other words, £1,000 for three results.

2. £1,000 for estimating the result of the score of matches named in Competition I.

You may enter the £1,000 COMPETITION FOR THREE RESULTS, or the £1,000 COMPETITION FOR CORRECT FORECAST, or you may enter both, but remember this, a Voucher from the first page of the cover of this issue MUST accompany each coupon. One Voucher will not suffice for any two coupons. For each and every coupon you send in you must enclose with same a Voucher. Any competitor not complying with this condition will be disqualified.

Naturally, throughout the period during which we have offered this amazing sum weekly our competitions have appealed enormously to footballers, and most competitors probably know the rules as well as we do ourselves. In No. 17 Competition, all you have to do is to fill in on the Coupon *the one match in each Column* (*i.e.*, 3 matches) in which you consider the greatest number of goals will be scored.

Take this as an instance from the Coupon:—

DIV. 1.	EVERTON....	5 v.	BURY	1
DIV. 2.	WOLVES	2 v.	BURNLEY	3
8TH. L.	READING	3 v.	WATFORD	3

If this estimate proved correct—or, to be more explicit, if these three games were the ones in each League in which the highest total of goals were scored and the scores as set out were correct, then it would win the £1,000 outright. Were the forecast, although not absolutely correct, the nearest to the correct results, then the attempt would win you the £25 Consolation prize.

If you are looking for guidance, let us recommend to you the views of the great football writer and expert, "McW.," who contributes an article weekly in another column. And last, but not least, do not run away with the idea that we do not wish you to win our mammoth prize.

THIS WEEK IS YOUR LAST CHANCE—AND SOME ONE MUST WIN THE £1,000.

Remember, in conclusion, that you must select clubs actually competing against each other as set out in the coupon.

THREE RESULTS £1,000.

No. 17. COUPON FOR MATCHES TO BE PLAYED SATURDAY, APRIL 27th.

The two opposing clubs in Column One, the two in Column Two, and the two in Column Three which, between them, will total the largest number of goals and the goals which each will score will be as follows:—

ENGLISH LEAGUE (Div. I.).	Goals.		Goals.
WOOLWICH A.	.....	v. NOTTS COUNTY	.....
W. B. ALBION	.....	v. SHEFFIELD W.	.....
NEWCASTLE U.	.....	v. PRESTON N.E.	.....
EVERTON	.....	v. BURY	.....
OLDHAM A.	.....	v. LIVERPOOL	.....
SUNDERLAND	.....	v. BLACKBURN R.	.....
BOLTON W.	.....	v. MANCHESTER U.	.....
MANCHESTER C.	.....	v. MIDDLESBRO'	.....
BRADFORD C.	.....	v. TOTTENHAM	.....

ENGLISH LEAGUE (Div. II.).	Goals.		Goals.
BIRMINGHAM	.....	v. GLOSSOP	.....
BRISTOL CITY	.....	v. HULL CITY	.....
CHELSEA	.....	v. BRADFORD	.....
CLAPTON O.	.....	v. BARNSLEY	.....
GAINSBORO' T.	.....	v. STOCKPORT C.	.....
HUDDERSFIELD	.....	v. BLACKPOOL	.....
LEICESTER F.	.....	v. LEEDS CITY	.....
NOTTS FOREST	.....	v. FULHAM	.....
WOLVES	.....	v. BURNLEY	.....

SOUTHERN LEAGUE (Div. I.).	Goals.		Goals.
BRIGHTON	.....	v. SWINDON	.....
STOKE	.....	v. BRISTOL R.	.....
COVENTRY C.	.....	v. WEST HAM U.	.....
LEYTON	.....	v. MILLWALL	.....
NORWICH C.	.....	v. Q. P. RANGERS	.....
CRYSTAL P.	.....	v. BRENTFORD	.....
SOUTHAMPTON	.....	v. EXETER	.....
PLYMOUTH	.....	v. N. BROMPTON	.....
READING	.....	v. WATFORD	.....
NORTHAMPTON	.....	v. LUTON	.....

I agree to abide by the decision published in JOHN BULL and "Lotinga's Weekly," and I enter this Competition on that clear understanding.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

Should no one succeed in estimating all the particulars correctly, then £25 will be awarded each and every week to the competitor whose estimate is most nearly correct. In the event of a tie the £25 will be divided.

CONDITIONS TO BE OBSERVED IN BOTH COMPETITIONS.

N.B.—A Voucher from Page One of Cover must accompany each Coupon.

1. The decision published in JOHN BULL and "Lotinga's Weekly" must be accepted as final and legally binding, and you enter only on that clear understanding.
2. Your estimate must be written only on a JOHN BULL Coupon, or on the Coupon to be found in "Lotinga's Weekly," and a voucher from one of these papers must accompany each coupon.
3. £1,000 will be awarded in each competition to the competitor (or competitors) sending an absolutely correct estimate. If no competitor is absolutely correct in his coupon, £25 will be given in each competition to the competitor whose estimate is most nearly correct. In the event of a tie the Prize will be divided.
4. JOHN BULL and "Lotinga's Weekly" will not accept any responsibility whatever in the matter of the non-delivery or delay of any attempt submitted.
5. All correspondence in the matter of the conduct of these competitions will be ignored.
6. Readers in Scotland are precluded from taking part in our Football Competitions owing to the attitude of their Law officers.
7. All competitors claiming prizes must send in their claims by the Thursday following the matches played.
8. All competitors must put the name and number or letter of the competition on the top left-hand corner of the front of the envelope containing coupons or claims, and their names or *noms de plume* only must be distinctly written on the back of the envelope.
9. Competitors sending in claims must forward copy of coupons to which their claims refer.
10. When two or more matches in the same League result in an equal number of goals, then the match including the team highest on the League table the previous Saturday will count in the Three Results Competition.
11. Coupons and vouchers for both Competitions may be sent in the same envelope.

Mark your envelopes "Football" and post your attempts so that they reach JOHN BULL, 93 and 94, Long Acre, London, W.C., not later than mid-day Thursday, April 25th next.

£1,000 FOOTBALL FORECAST

COUPON FOR MATCHES

(No Entrance Fee.) TO BE PLAYED SATURDAY, APRIL 27th. (No Entrance Fee.)

(Cross out in ink the club which you think will lose. Where you anticipate a draw do not cross out either.)

ARSENAL	v. NOTTS COUNTY	BIRMINGHAM	v. GLOSSOP	NOTTS FOREST	v. FULHAM
W. B. ALBION	v. SHEFFIELD W.	BRISTOL CITY	v. HULL CITY	WOLVES	v. BURNLEY
OLDHAM ATHLETIC	v. LIVERPOOL	CHELSEA	v. BRADFORD	BRIGHTON	v. SWINDON
SUNDERLAND	v. BLACKBURN ROVERS	ORIENT	v. BARNSLEY	COVENTRY CITY	v. WEST HAM
BOLTON W.	v. MANCHESTER UNITED	GAINSBORO' T.	v. STOCKPORT C.	NORWICH CITY	v. Q. P. RANGERS
MANCHESTER CITY	v. MIDDLESBRO'	HUDDERSFIELD	v. BLACKPOOL	SOUTHAMPTON	v. EXETER
BRADFORD CITY	v. TOTTENHAM H.	LEICESTER FOSSE	v. LEEDS CITY		

Don't Fail to Send a Voucher and Remember this is your Last Chance.

I agree to abide by the decision published in JOHN BULL and "Lotinga's Weekly" and I enter this Competition on that clear understanding.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

Should no one give all the correct results, £25 will be awarded each and every week to the competitor whose estimate is most nearly accurate. In the event of a tie the £25 will be divided.

See page 511 for Result of Competitions F and No. 14.

IN THE FUTURE

there may be many new diseases, doctors say; but it is certain there will be the old familiar maladies, what are sometimes called light ailments, but which cause heavy discomfort and often real suffering, as those who are bilious and depressed know only too well. It is equally certain that people who, from stress of modern conditions, long hours, hasty meals and so on, get out of sorts, and run down generally, will in the future,

AS IN THE PAST,

know exactly where to go for the safe and congenial remedy to make them all right again. Few of us can do without occasional medicine—even the healthiest. Indeed, there is no way of keeping well except by assisting Nature now and then, and taking a medicine which all can resort to with perfect confidence in its ability to do just what we require it to do. That medicine is, of course, as everyone has known for sixty years and more,

BEECHAM'S PILLS

the household remedy of two hemispheres. These pills have helped generations to a sound digestion, and consequently to a cheerful outlook on life. That is what they are made for. Our grandfathers swore by them; they cured our parents; they have helped us to good health, and they will help our children, and their children. Faithful to many thousands during many years, they remain the true cure now for the many ills arising from a disturbed stomach, and they

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